

aze prisoners to press rights case in Europe

isoners at the Maze prison, in Northern
have accused the British Governmet of
g nine articles of the European Conven-
Human Rights, including the one outlaw-
grading and inhuman treatment. They
o file their complaint with the European
sion of Human Rights.

human, degrading reatment alleged

bel Ferriman

epublican prisoners
prison, Lond Kesh,
Ireland, intend to
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Commission on
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March, 1976.

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st important article

which the Government is alleged
to have infringed is Article 3.
That declares unlawful any de-
grading and inhuman treatment
or punishment. The prisoners
are alleging that the denial of
association and exercise
amounts to such treatment.

It will further be alleged that
Article 8, which guarantees
freedom of conscience, has been
breached because the men re-
gard themselves as political
prisoners and that Article 10,
guaranteeing the right to re-
ceive and give information, has
been breached in that prisoners
are not permitted to receive
letters, certain literature, or
newspapers. They will also
maintain that Article 8, which
guarantees right to correspon-
dence, has similarly been in-
fringed.

The procedure under which
protesting republicans are regu-
larly sentenced to confinement
in their cells three days in
every fortnight will also be
challenged under Article 6,
which guarantees the right to
a fair trial.

Article 8 will be quoted in
alleging that, it guarantees
the privacy of the individual it
has been breached by the larva-
tory procedures in use in all
United Kingdom jails.

If the Maze case is accepted
by the commission as worthy of
investigation a "rapporteur"
will be appointed to examine
the case. The Government may
be asked to reply to the allega-
tions.

There are several precedents
for the commission receiving
cases involving prisoners' rights.
Three came from Belfast and
one from Londonderry.
They are serving sentences
ranging from three years for
blacking to 26 years for
possessing firearms.

One of them, Mr Kieran
Nugent, aged 21, was the first
man to be sentenced after the
special category status was
withdrawn in 1976.

The case is being brought by
Mr Francis Keenan, a solicitor,
and Mr Kevin Boyle, a former
civil rights leader, who is a
professor of law at University
College, Galway.

Japan's car sales in Britain up by 40%

By Clifford Webb

Japanese cars continue to
make remarkable gains in the
British market. New figures re-
leased yesterday by the Society
of Motor Manufacturers and
Traders show that, despite the
voluntary restriction accepted
in March, Japanese new car
registrations increased by 40.5
per cent in the first seven
months of the year.

This compares with a 27 per
cent increase by Ford, the lead-
ing British-based manufacturer,
and a 22 per cent increase for
the market as a whole.

Mitsubishi Colt cars—relative
newcomers to Britain—
recorded a 53.5 per cent in-
crease, Honda 44.4 per cent,
Toyota 43.5 per cent, Datsun
39.4 per cent and Mazda 16.5.

Japan's Ministry of Inter-
national Trade and Industry,
save an undertaking that the
number of cars shipped to the
United Kingdom in 1978 would
not exceed the level of 1977.

As a result it confidently ex-
pected that the Japanese share
of the market would decline
from that taken in 1977 (10.6
per cent) but in the first seven
months the Japanese have sold
100,575 cars, giving them a
10.79 per cent share of a much
larger market.

They have been able to do
this because large numbers of
cars shipped in 1977 remained
unsold and were carried over to
infringe the 1978 shipment.

Yesterday's startling figures
will make first-rate ammunition
for the SMMT to fire at the
Japanese Automotive Manu-
facturers Association when it
sends a team to Tokyo next
month to negotiate further
restrictions.

It is still possible for the
Japanese to reduce their
market share during the
remainder of the year and so
avoid a public outcry which
could force the British Govern-
ment to impose quota restric-
tions.

There is evidence that this
cutback has already begun.
Last month they took only 7.8
per cent of the market com-
pared with 9.3 per cent in
July, 1977.

But July is a notoriously
fickle month, coming as it
does on the eve of the new car regis-
tration year. August 7 registration
sales are already heading
for a record.

Some forecasters believe that
close to 250,000 cars will be
sold in this month alone, and
the Japanese will want their full
share of this once-a-year
bonanza.

It is what follows in the last
four months of the year that
now worries Japanese dealers.
They fear that to avoid an open
confrontation with the Govern-
ment they will either be forced
to accept a severe cut in sup-
plies or lose their franchise.

Toyota has already reduced
its 230-strong network by 40
dealers.

Ford was the market leader
in July with 35.24 per cent—its
highest penetration since a
freak month in 1961. It sold
22,265 cars compared with
British Leyland's 13,527 (21.4
per cent), but one of three
Ford sales were imports from
its factories in Belgium, Spain,
Ireland and Germany. Vauxhall's
share dropped to 6.4 per cent
compared with the 8 per cent
it has been averaging.

Last words pointed out that the death of a Pope 'can always teach men something' Thousands gather to pay their final farewell to Paul VI

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Aug 7

In death the Pope looked a
little tired, a little ironical, with
something of the thin expres-
sion which used to give a sense
of tension to his face when he
was younger. Yet he looked less
himself because he had lost
his most vivid feature with the
permanent closing of his eyes.

In his summer palace at
Castelgandolfo he lay dressed in
red velvet, on a catafalque
covered with grey silk bordered
with gold. On his head was his
white and gold mitre and his
hands were clasped over his
rosary. He was resting on three
pillows, and four Swiss guards
in their striped costumes and
helmets plumed with red stood
by him.

Dignitaries were ushered
today into the room known as
the Swiss Hall and stood in
homage or knelt at one of the
two prayer stools facing the
body. President Alessandro
Pertini was an early visitor.

Later in the day the several
thousand people gathered in
the square outside the palace
were allowed to file into the
hall for a last farewell before
the body is moved to Rome for
burial in the crypt of St Peter's.

A hot wind blew across the
lake which was rough and
agitated today, the reverse of
the breathless humidity which
had marked the dying days of
the pontiff at Castelgandolfo,
and Rome itself was thundery
tonight.

The only other Pope to die
at Castelgandolfo, Pius XII, did
so late at night after a long
illness which closed the reign
of a Pontiff who had become
almost a recluse in his later
years. Pius XII had a totally
different experience. His
popularity grew with his later
years, and he was never so
impressive as when he exerted
his ebbing energies to their
fullest extent in seeking to
give the world a last warning
against the onslaught of violence.

The cardinals present in
Rome today held the first
meeting of the interregnum
under the chairmanship of

Cardinal Jean Villot, in his
capacity as Chamberlain. It
was a brief meeting and
detailed arrangements for the
burial are expected to be pub-
lished tomorrow.

It appears, however, that the
body will be taken to St Peter's
on Wednesday afternoon and
will lie in state in front of the
Altar of the Confession through-
out Thursday and Friday. The
funeral Mass, followed by the
burial, will probably take place
on Saturday.

According to Mr Bonicelli,
the Bishop of Albano, who was
with the dying Pope yesterday,
almost his last words were to
the effect that the death of a
Pope is like that of other men.

"but it can always teach men
something".

As far as electing a successor
is concerned, the cardinals will
have to start making their
decisions within the next three
weeks. The Pope laid down in
his regulations for the election
that 15 days must be allowed
to pass after the death for all
the cardinals to arrive in Rome;
but once a maximum period of
20 days has passed all those
cardinals present must enter
the conclave and proceed to the
election.

Tonight the Vatican made it
clear that the custom by which
the outcome of each ballot is
announced to the crowds in St
Peter's square and to the world

at large by means of smoke will
be followed in this election, as it
has been for some four cen-
turies. An inconclusive ballot
will be marked by black smoke
emerging from the chimney of
a stove placed in the Sixtine
Chapel, where voting is due to
take place. The election of the
Pope will be signalled by white
smoke.

The principal innovation will
be the age limit placed on the
electors. Pope Paul laid down
that cardinals over the age of
80 must not be allowed to
enter the conclave.

He has also stipulated that,
if the cardinals cannot reach
the required majority of two-

thirds plus one vote, they may
—after a certain period, and
if there is unanimous agree-
ment—turn to a simpler
method: the majority of those
present, plus one, or a straight
ballot between the two candi-
dates with the most support
in the last round of voting.

His regulations confirm the
conclaves total isolation from
the outside world and lay down
instructions for technical in-
spection of the conclave area
to ensure that no electronic
recording devices are present.

World's tribute, page 4
Leading article, page 13
Election process, page 12



Nuns pray and a woman weeps as crowds mourn for the Pope in the main square of Castelgandolfo.

Australian minister dismissed

Sydney, Aug 7.—Mr Malcolm
Fraser, the Australian Prime
Minister, dismissed one of his
ministers today for allegedly
improperly influencing
total boundaries, a government
spokesman said.

The spokesman said Mr
Fraser dismissed Mr Reginald
Withers, aged 53, the Adminis-
trative Services Minister,
leader of the Government in
the Senate and one of the
Prime Minister's closest ad-
visers, after receiving a Royal
Commission report.

Mr Fraser ordered the in-
quiry last April after allega-
tions of interfering with elec-
toral boundaries in the state
of Queensland and was made
against Mr Eric Robinson, the
Finance Minister.

Government sources said the
commission cleared Mr Robin-
son, who went on leave during
the inquiry, and instead implicat-
ed Mr Withers. —Reuter.

Cost of raw materials down in July

By Caroline Atkinson

Raw material costs fell last
month and inflation—as mea-
sured by the wholesale price
index—slowed to an annual rate
of 6.5 per cent.

Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of
State for Industry welcomed the
figures yesterday. He said they
were "most encouraging" and
showed "what had been
achieved over the past year by
restraint, and its beneficial
effect on price stability."

He pointed out that the an-
nual rise in wholesale prices had
fallen for the 12th successive
month in July.

But the rise during the month
was slightly more than in June.
Raw material costs fell by 1
per cent last month, largely be-
cause of the pound's rise on
foreign exchange markets dur-
ing July. Manufacturers are
now paying 11 per cent less for
their raw materials than they
were a year ago.

However, the Government
does not expect any further
improvement in inflation this
year.

The most usual measure is
the annual rise in the retail
price index. When the July
index is published on Friday it
is expected to show a rise from
7.4 per cent in June to nearer
8 per cent.

Last month there was a rise
of 0.8 per cent in the factory
gate prices charged by manu-
facturers. This compares with
a rise of 0.6 per cent in June.

The Government believes that
the underlying rate of whole-
sale price inflation will remain
stable at about the July level
of 8.4 per cent. In the latest
months factory gate prices
have risen in line with this
rate. This is slightly above the
hoped for level of retail price
inflation.

Mr Denis Healey, the Chan-
cellor, said last month that he
expected this to stay at an an-
nual rate of about 8 per cent
for the rest of the year. After
that much depends on the suc-
cess or otherwise of the Phase
Four policy.

"There must be a slight up-
turn in the rate of wholesale
price inflation in the next few
months as a result of the sharp
increase in raw material costs
earlier this year. Between Feb-
ruary and May the wholesale
input index rose by 51 per cent.

This was caused mainly by
increased import prices after a
drop in the value of the
pound during March.

The rise in raw material costs
has not yet fed through to the
prices charged by manufactur-
ers.

The path of raw material
costs has been very erratic over
the past year. The rising value
of the pound during 1977 and
depressed prices on world com-
modity markets led to a 7.3 per
cent fall in wholesale input
prices between April 1977 and
February of this year.

The beneficial effects of this
are probably still affecting the
wholesale output index.

July marked a second re-
versal in the trend of raw material
costs after the rise from
February.

The weakness of the dollar
and corresponding strength of
sterling during recent weeks
means that the input index is
likely to fall again in August as
it did last month.

Manufacturers may decide
Continued on page 15, col 4

Mr Vance begins crucial round of talks with President Sadat

From Christopher Walker
Alexandria, Aug 7

Mr Cyrus Vance, the
American Secretary of State,
arrived here today for a
critical series of talks lasting
two days which many Western
and Arab diplomats now believe
could decide the fate of Presi-
dent Sadat's deadlocked peace
initiative.

In view of widespread pessimism
in Egyptian Government
circles, Mr Vance was acknowl-
edged by American Adminis-
tration sources to be facing the
toughest round yet in his recent
negotiation efforts aimed at
finding an agreed Middle East
settlement.

In the days preceding the
visit, the Egyptian Government
had repeatedly made clear that
it was now looking to the
American Government to play
a more positive role in the
peace process. At the same time,
President Sadat continued to
insist that "new elements"
must be forthcoming from the
Israelis as a condition to his
agreeing to the resumption of
direct negotiations.

Mr Vance held his first
round of talks this afternoon
with Mr Muhammad Kamel,
the Egyptian Foreign Minister.
Later he was driven for an
evening meeting with President
Sadat at his nearby summer
residence at Mamoura.

Like most Muslims in Egypt,
Mr Sadat is known to be a
strict observer of the Ramadan
fast and prefers his official
engagements to take place
after the traditional breakfast
which is eaten just after sunset.

Mr Vance was known to have
brought a personal message to
the Egyptian leader from Presi-
dent Carter.

It is understood that as a
prelude to the Egyptian
administration will be pressing
for a restatement of the Ameri-
can Government's position
spelt out by President Carter
after his visit to Aswan on January
4.

At the time, Mr Carter
insisted that among the principles
which must be observed should
be a withdrawal by Israel from
territories occupied in 1967
and agreement on secure and

recognized borders for all parties
in the context of normal
and peaceful relations in accord-
ance with United Nations resolu-
tions 242 and 338.

Michael Kopeck writes from
Jerusalem: Israeli Government
sources expressed satisfaction
today at the atmosphere which
prevailed in the talks between
Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime
Minister, and Mr Vance.

The American Secretary of
State had a breakfast meeting
today with Mr Shimon Peres,
the leader of the opposition
Labour Party, and then paid a
courtesy call on President
Yitzhak Navon before flying to
Alexandria.

After the six-hour talks yester-
day between Mr Vance and
Mr Begin and his senior
ministers, the belief is held
here that a degree of harmony
was established in the Israeli
and American understanding of
the situation.

It is felt that the onus is on
President Sadat to unbend in
the direct negotiations are to
be resumed.

minton and ng golds England

have won a total of four gold
medals in the Commonwealth Games in
Edinburgh. The three golds won yesterday
the one won by Sharon Davies
metres individual medley were:
Foster, in the 10,000 metres;
er Snodde, in the springboard;
d the team award in the bad-
minton lead the medals table with
followed by Australia with seven
Page 6



ed shop on votes'

Irish House, QC, the shadow
has accused union chiefs in
union committee for a Labour
at attempting to impose a closed
electoral choice. The event was
a, he said, because of the extent
it placed unions at the heart of
a, which would proceed beyond
Page 2

k-to-rule goes on

ice engineers refused to call off
k-to-rule to ease the way for
r their claim for a 35-hour week-
tion is affecting telephone and
services in many parts of the
Page 2

es have good day

had their best day since last
s with the FT index closing 8.2
15.4. The market was influenced
s that today's money supply
ill be tightening. Oil shares were
demand
Page 15

Ex judge resigns: Dr Hans Fittinger, Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg, who has been under attack for his role as a naval prosecutor and judge during and immediately after the Second World War, has resigned under pressure from his own party, the Christian Democrats. Announc- ing his resignation, he complained of "character assassination".

Competing with rail

British Caledonian Airways is joining the
drive for cheaper fares with a scheme to
charge only £1 for children on certain
of its services between London and Scot-
land this winter. It also plans to reduce
the single adult fare by £14 on the same
flights, bringing it into direct competition
with British Rail
Page 3

Five counties fined

Five cricketing counties, Essex, Lancashire, Kent, Worcestershire and Nottinghamshire, have been fined by the
Test and County Cricket Board for slow
over rates during the first 11 matches of
the season. Essex, contenders for the
championship, have been fined £800
Page 8

Liberals wait for move by Mr Thorpe

Liberal MPs and party officials are await-
ing a clear lead from Mr Jeremy Thorpe
on whether he wishes to stand as a candi-
date at the next general election. There
are no plans to stand for Mr Alan
Beith, the party's chief whip, and it is
felt that Mr Thorpe is being given extra
time in order to avoid a damaging
confrontation with MPs. Page 2

SNP hopes: The Scottish National Party
hopes to win several seats in direct
elections to the European parliament 2

Credit study: The National Consumer
Council is to study how well people under-
stand the credit arrangements to which
they commit themselves 2

Royal change: The Queen was forced by
a union dispute to change her plans for
boarding the royal yacht when she arrived
at Glasgow 3

Zambia: Mr Simon Kapwepwe will renew
links with Rhodesia's elected President 4

Namibia: Few details emerged from talks
between the United Nations and
South African officials 5

Leader says 13 Letters: On the disruption to holiday flights, from Mr R. J. Williams; on political adver- tising, from Lord Thomson of Monifeth.

Leading articles: Pope Paul VI: Ecology as
a vehicle of protest; Havana youth festival
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John Rae asks what would have happened if
Hitler had been assassinated; the BBC, race
and immigration; Peter Evans; Diana Goddes
on the Japanese educational system
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Joan Bakewell on Cuba (BBC2); Judith
Kagley on the European Community Youth
Orchestra; John Higgins on Die Zauberkiste
at Salzburg; John Russell Taylor on endings
by Anthony Gross
Sport, pages 6-8

Cricketer: Davidson scores century against Kent;
Glamorgan win in two days; Golf: Peter Ryder
on the re-emergence of Mahaffey; Winner of
the American PGA tournament; Show jump-
ing; Pamela Macgregor-Morris
Business news, pages 15-21

Stock markets: The FT index rose 8.2 to
305.4, putting 500 for the first time since
last November. Gifted ground for equities;
Commercial Union: a warning on underwrit-
ing; Allied Breweries; Lyons: the question of
diversification
Business features: Richard Rose on the inter-
national trend in public spending; Richard
Wigg finds India's car makers under pressure

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Action soon on road tanker peril

By Michael Baily
Transport Correspondent

Action on new safety regula-
tions for Britain's petrol and
chemical road tankers is to be
speeded after last month's
explosion in a Spanish camp
site which killed nearly 200
people.

After a meeting with industry
and union leaders in London
yesterday Mr William Rodgers,
Secretary of State for Trans-
port, said there was an urgent
need to reassess the public
safety record of British tankers.

Accelerated consultations
between the department, the
industries concerned and the
Health and Safety Executive
were expected to produce
recommendations for labelling
tankers by the end of this
month and for comprehensive
regulations by the end of
October.

He was determined to make
the new regulations mandatory
by next summer at the latest.
Although there are about
16,000 potentially dangerous
tankers on Britain's roads (two-
thirds carrying petroleum),
there has never been an acci-
dent comparable to that in
Spain. But minor incidents
occur regularly.

In the latest, one 41 people
had hospital treatment when a
45-gallon drum of formaldehyde
and methanol fell from a lorry
in Leytonstone, east London, a
fortnight ago.

In the past eight years four
people are believed to have died
in accidents with chemical
tankers and seven from acci-
dents with petroleum tankers.

There was general support at
yesterday's meeting for im-
proved enforcement of regula-
tions on road safety and hazar-
dous goods, and Mr Rodgers said
that would be explored.

He will consult with local
authorities on the routing and
parking of lorries carrying
dangerous goods.

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HOME NEWS

Sir Geoffrey accuses union group for Labour victory of seeking closed shop on electoral choice

By Geoffrey Bromberg

Some union leaders were trying to impose a closed shop on electoral choice and must not be allowed to succeed, Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the shadow Chancellor, told Conservative Party workers in London yesterday.

An important aspect of the next general election had been symbolized by the much trumpeted formation of the trade union committee for a Labour victory, he said. The event was significant because of the extent to which it placed trade unions at the heart of the debate, which would proceed beyond polling day.

The establishment of the committee, dedicated to seeking the re-election of the Callaghan Administration, was announced last month. It will be chaired by Mr David Gassett, who will preside at the TUC conference next month.

Sir Geoffrey recalled that Mr James Prior, Opposition spokesman on employment, had stated there should be full, open and informed debate on all aspects of Britain's affairs. "Perhaps the central aspect of that debate is whether the interests of the country, in-

cluding the interests of 12 million trade unionists, will be best served by the continuance in power of the alliance between socialist parliamentarians and top trade unionists, which seeks to present itself as the "Labour movement".

It would mean that when Conservatives criticized Labour policies they must often be sharply critical of some trade union leaders at the same time.

That made it easy for the Labour Party to try to change the ground of the debate by shifting the spotlight away from the real issues. Every Conservative criticism would be labelled "union bashing" or as a "recipe for confrontation".

Sir Geoffrey defended trade unions as central to the Conservative idea of a free society, but said that in a parliamentary democracy they were not intended to be vehicles for the exercise of political power. Conservative hostility to the Labour Party did not imply hostility to the unions and still less to union members. Union leaders had every right to electioneer in their personal capacity, but no right to claim that they were doing so on behalf of all their members when millions of their members held different political views.

"Any such claim is shown to be a hollow sham by the number of trade unionists who take positive action to contract out of paying the political levy to the Labour Party."

Sir Geoffrey was pessimistic about the economic consequences of the alliance. British living standards had fallen further behind other countries. He identified one influence that had been holding them back as the "mythology" of the British labour movement and the belief that capitalism, the boss and the manager were evil and that a free enterprise system created unemployment, held down wages and blocked progress.

Britain stood at a turning point. Unless they answered the question of how they responded to the challenge of the next 20 years in the right way, they were set for a further decade of economic stagnation and decline. The Labour Party had suffered in the past 15 years.

He said the Conservatives were confident of their ability to secure the support of "the great mass of trade union members. For our policies are more in tune with their instincts than are those of the Labour movement."

Warning on divergent views in UK and EEC parliaments

By Our Political Staff

"Not for the first time" there had been insufficient public and parliamentary discussion before decisions of long-term importance for the United Kingdom were taken, a report from the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities states.

The report is the first detailed study of the implications of direct elections both for the Parliament at Westminster and for the European Parliament, and was published yesterday.

It considers the dangers of conflict and of divergent opinion between members of the two parliaments and urges that steps should be taken to solve those difficulties.

In an implied criticism of ministers, the report states that the Government at this stage has not thought it appropriate to give the select committee its views. It gives a warning that the dangers of divergent opinions are considerable and that the benefits of having a European dimension at Westminster will be lost.

The main recommendation of the seven solutions proposed is that a European grand committee should be set up at Westminster which would include the scrutiny committees of both Houses and members of the European Parliament. That committee could discuss EEC issues in the presence of a minister and could debate or hear evidence on subjects of mutual interest.

The committee would not vote. Although Lord Greenwood of Rossdale, chairman of the Select Committee, indicated at

a press conference yesterday that he was in favour of dual mandate MPs, the report has accepted that that would not be acceptable to either of the main parties or to most MPs. For the same reasons, the select committee has ruled out suggestions that the 81 European MPs should become temporary members of either House of Parliament with full rights or as non-voting members.

The report says that a secretariat should be provided to coordinate liaison between the two Houses and their scrutiny committees and the European Parliament. It proposes that European MPs should have access to ministers and appropriate EEC matters and civil servants through ministers.

Lord Greenwood said yesterday that there would be a debate on the report in the Lords in the new session of parliament and he expected that there would be a similar debate in the Commons. He thought that the proposals would be generally acceptable since the committee firmly believed that there should be no lessening of scrutiny of EEC matters in the Westminster Parliament because of direct elections.

The committee considers that a wider exercise of influence by the European Parliament need not cause rivalries or threaten the different spheres of national control by national parliaments or national ministers. Everything possible should be done to prevent conflict or rivalry and to improve the impact of the British Parliament on EEC business. Relations between the United Kingdom Parliament and the European Parliament after direct elections.

Scottish nationalists hope to win seats in Europe

Scottish nationalists see a significant change of political emphasis after next year's direct elections to the European Parliament, with much more attention being paid by Edinburgh to Brussels than to London.

Mrs Winifred Ewing, MP for Moray and Nairn and Scottish National Party member of the EEC parliament, believes that the SNP could win at least three of the eight European seats. She told a news conference in Glasgow yesterday that, as she had won two reputedly unwinable seats in her time for the Westminster Parliament, there was no reason why her party should not go all out for the eight seats because those standing for the SNP were standing up for Scotland.

"Our fellow Europeans are now aware of the very real discontent in Scotland over the deal made by the Scottish Government on such vital issues as steel, fishing, energy and agriculture," she said.

Tourists fined for smuggling cats into Britain

Three young French tourists who smuggled two cats into Britain in defiance of the law against rabies were fined £500 each with 30 days' jail in default by magistrates at Maidstone, Kent, yesterday. They all admitted bringing the cats into the country without a licence from the Minister of Agriculture.

Patrick Lacroix, aged 21, and his brother Dominique, aged 18, and Monique Falcoz-Vigne, aged 21, all live in the Rue de Daciere, Laval, Mayenne, France. The prosecution said the three defendants told police they were unaware of the British laws until they saw notices on the ferry. They were concerned about what would happen to the animals if they were seized by British customs, so they hid them under the front seat of their car.

At Sittingbourne Magistrates' Court, Kent, tourist, aged 59, of Milan, a tourist, who also brought a cat into Britain, was fined £250. He said that he could not read the warnings at the port.

Farmers seek to revive public's taste for plums

By Hugh Clayton

English plums will have almost disappeared in 10 years if orchards continue to dwindle at the present rate, growers said yesterday. Shoppers were being persuaded by lavish advertising that exotic fruits were more interesting, and plums were being rejected in favour of fresh apricots, tinned pineapples and strawberries.

Plans for rescuing the English plum were described in London yesterday by Mr Richard Fisher, who farms in the heart of plum growing country near Evesham, Hereford and Worcester. "We have

got to get rid of the plum and cucumber image," he said.

Mr Fisher is chairman of West Midlands Fruit Growers, a group of more than 100 farmers who rely mainly on plums for a living. "It would be a tragedy if production dwindled and the English plum became as rare and expensive as the English nectarine or the English peach," he said. "What we are trying to do is to try to instil some enthusiasm into the housewife to buy some plums and stop that acreage declining."

In 1947 there were more than 46,000 acres of plum orchards. By 1972 the area had fallen to 26,000 acres and this year it is below 12,000 acres.

Acid poured in pool

About 160 children were saved from acid burns yesterday when Mrs Bertha Moss, caretaker at St John's primary school at Stanground, Cambridgeshire, discovered that two gallons of hydrochloric acid had

been poured into the school swimming pool. The children were to swim in the pool as a holiday activity. Police blame vandals for the incident and for "damaging equipment and fittings at the pool."

Liberals wait on Mr Thorpe's intentions

By Our Political Staff

Liberal MPs and senior party officials were last night awaiting a clear lead from Mr Jeremy Thorpe on whether he wished to be a candidate in the next general election.

Mr Alan Beith, the Liberal Chief Whip, has consulted his parliamentary colleagues and made Mr Thorpe aware of their general views. It is felt that the onus is on the former Liberal leader to make a clear statement of intent.

There are no immediate plans for Mr Beith to make an official statement and it is felt that Mr Thorpe is being given extra time in order to avoid a damaging confrontation with his fellow MPs.

It is known that several are deeply unhappy at the prospect of Mr Thorpe's standing as a candidate while charged with three other men with conspiracy to murder Mr Norman Scott, the former male model.

Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale and a former chief whip, and Mr David Penhaligon, MP for Truro, have publicly voiced doubts about the wisdom of Mr Thorpe fighting an election.

Both were condemned yesterday by Mr Elyn Hooson, MP for Montgomery, who said it was most improper for such objections to be made.

Other Liberal MPs, such as Mr Stephen Ross, Isle of Wight, acknowledged the backing that exists for Mr Thorpe in his Devon, North constituency, and that is another reason for not announcing any hasty decisions.

There is a possibility that Mr Thorpe could be disowned, with the removal of his name from the list of official candidates, if he insisted on standing.

Stewart Tindler, writes from the Liberal Party headquarters in London, that Mr Thorpe remained silent yesterday on whether he wished to stand in the general election. Although he spent much of the afternoon in discussions with Mrs Lilian Prouse, his constituency agent, at his house in a Cobham, no statement was forthcoming.

Last night Mr Thorpe attended a coffee evening at the village hall at Haslemill, on the edge of Exmoor. He slipped past reporters with his wife Marion, and entered the hall to be greeted by warm applause from about 30 people. After 45 minutes they left and Mr Thorpe again refused to speak to reporters. "I said this morning there would be no statement and I am sorry you have wasted an entire day outside my house," he said.

As he left, the villagers expressed admiration for him and the work he has done in the constituency.

Last Saturday the constituency party announced their intention of asking Mr Thorpe to stand in the next election, if not as an official Liberal candidate then as an independent. Mr Thorpe said he intended to accept. Since then the constituency party has apparently been waiting for the national reaction of the Liberals.

Customers' view of credit to be studied

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

At the request of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection the National Consumer Council is to study how much customers understand about credit arrangements they accept.

The National Consumer Council has been concerned that each year 900,000 credit customers have court proceedings taken against them for defaulting on their credit. It has been researching to discover to what extent people can or do take account of financial difficulties their credit commitments may cause.

The Government hopes the situation will improve when the Consumer Credit Act 1974 comes into force, probably later this year. The NCC will monitor any effect new regulations have in influencing consumers' attitudes.

The NCC has also been asked to consider whether further measures would help consumers to make better use of credit.



St Paul's pendulum: Mr Robert Lewis (right) and Mr Stephen Scott working on a 25ft pendulum which the Open University is hanging from the dome of St Paul's Cathedral in a reconstruction of Thursday of the Foucault Experiment in Paris in 1851, showing that the Earth rotates.

Engineers refuse to back down

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

Post Office engineers yesterday refused to call off their work-to-rule to ease the way to peace talks over a claim for a 35-hour working week.

The Post Office Engineering Union said such a precondition was unrealistic. It accused the Post Office of attacking "an impossible precondition" to a meeting. "For seven years we have sought to negotiate our claim and the only progress made in all that time towards a settlement has taken place since our action was introduced," it said.

For 10 months the union has been refusing to commission new exchange equipment and it is now operating a work-to-rule. Post Office sources last night believed the union had taken too literally a letter from Mr Peter Benson, managing director of the telecommunications business, seeking an end to protest action to discuss a possible peace formula.

The formula was devised by Lord McCarty's inquiry, which recommended a two-stage move to a 37-hour week through a productivity arrangement which would not increase the industry's costs.

The Post Office said last night that the 10-month action was affecting postal services as well as the telephone service in many parts of the country. The reason was that the engineers were responsible for maintaining lifts, mechanical handling equipment, telephone sorting machinery, stamp cancelling machines and scales on Post Office counters, and for servicing 25,000 kiosks.

Second-class mail and air mail services are being particularly affected, but the impact varies from town to town. Delays are expected to become worse as the impact of the work-to-rule increases.

Sir William Barlow, chairman of the Post Office, said: "Lord McCarty's report gives us a real opportunity to resume negotiations, and we are anxious to get round the table with the union as soon as possible."

The union said it was prepared to meet with Post Office at any time and place "and the sooner the better."

'Violence in borstal' play is deferred

The play about violence in borstals, *Scum*, which was banned by the BBC, has had to be shelved by the Royal Shakespeare Company. But shooting of a film is due to start in January.

After the BBC decided last January not to show its production of *Scum*, the RSC planned to present it this autumn at its Warehouse theatre in London. However, the rights to the play are held by a film company, which eventually decided to bar stage performances before the film is released.

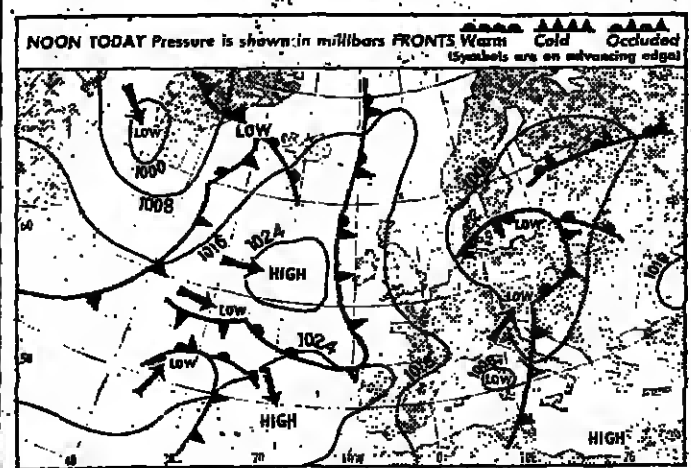
Mr Clive Parsons, co-producer of the film, said the company could not risk its investment: a stage production could detract from the film's freshness.

The BBC said at the time of the banning that although the incidents in the play might be accurately documented, packing them all into a 90-minute play was a distortion of normal conditions in borstals.

Imprisoning charge

Donald Rodney Ditch, aged 35, of Ironmill Lane, Wandsworth, London, was remanded at South Western Magistrates' Court yesterday for custody for a week charged with assaulting and imprisoning four people against their will at Streatham Close, Wandsworth, on Saturday.

Weather forecast and recordings



Borders: Rather cloudy, rain at times; wind N, light; max temp 15°C (59°F).

NW England, Lake District: Rather cloudy, with rain, brighter later with showers; wind NW, light or moderate; max temp 17°C (63°F).

Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Argyll & Bute: Rather cloudy, a few bright or sunny intervals, mostly dry apart from drizzle in exposed areas; wind NW moderate; max temp 16°C (61°F).

Edinburgh and Dundee: Aberdeen, Glasgow: Rather cloudy, some sunny intervals, scattered showers; wind N, light; max temp 15°C (59°F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly cloudy, a little drizzle to places; some bright intervals; wind N, moderate; max temp 12°C (54°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Becoming mostly dry, apart from showers in E, further rain may spread to some W areas later, somewhat warmer generally.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel: Wind NW, moderate or fresh; sea slight to moderate.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind N, moderate or fresh; sea slight to moderate.

NE, E and Central N England.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY, MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; th, thunder.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	15	10	10	15	10	10
Edinburgh	12	10	10	12	10	10
Glasgow	12	10	10	12	10	10
Belfast	12	10	10	12	10	10
Cardiff	12	10	10	12	10	10
Birmingham	12	10	10	12	10	10
Manchester	12	10	10	12	10	10
Sheffield	12	10	10	12	10	10
Leeds	12	10	10	12	10	10
Nottingham	12	10	10	12	10	10
Coventry	12	10	10	12	10	10
Bristol	12	10	10	12	10	10
Exeter	12	10	10	12	10	10
Plymouth	12	10	10	12	10	10
Swansea	12	10	10	12	10	10
Cardiff	12	10	10	12	10	10
Belfast	12	10	10	12	10	10
London	15	10	10	15	10	10

Bed and breakfast for more homeless people

By Pat Healy

Correspondent

The number of homeless families placed in bed and breakfast accommodation went up sharply in the first four months of the operation of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act.

In London a quarter of the 4,230 homeless households accepted under the Act were placed in this type of accommodation, although it is intended to be used only as a last resort.

The Act, which took effect in England and Wales on December 1 last, was expected to lead to the end of bed and breakfast for the homeless because it placed a duty on housing authorities to secure permanent accommodation for them.

Instead, the number of homeless households in bed and breakfast accommodation rose by half in the first four months. At the end of November 810 homeless households were living in such accommodation in England, 540 of them in London.

By the end of last March the total had risen to 1,210, including 810 in the London area.

Both the Department of the Environment and the Joint Charities Group of housing

bodies believe that the increase indicates that many of the homeless are not being housed by the new Act.

They had not allowed housing plans for the ex-burgers they now have to a homeless, including families with children or pregnant women, and local authorities were to accept as homeless by the Act, accounted for all the households accepted the first four months operation. The total accommodation in the first quarter of this year was 12,200, or with 8,180 in the same of 1977.

Outside London authorities resorted to bed and breakfast much less, used hostels for some households. Those who had a much better record in fulfilling the Act's duty to secure permanent accommodation.

However, they were more likely to treat households as "interim homeless", limiting the provision of temporary accommodation while they find their own accommodation with advice and assistance from the council.

Group call for charter on taxpayers' rights

By Robin Young

Correspondent

The Small Business Bureau, a Conservative Party pressure group, yesterday launched a campaign for a "taxpayers' charter".

It would include the appointment of a separate tax ombudsman, the right of taxpayers to claim damages for losses resulting from Inland Revenue maladministration, and a right to appeal against tax inspectors' unreasonable demands and incursions on civil liberties.

Mr David Mitchell, Conservative MP for Basingstoke and chairman of the bureau, said the proposals arose from more than 200 letters received from aggrieved members.

Mr Christopher Smith, a consultant to the group, said the charter aimed at restoring the balance between the taxpayer and the Revenue.

There had been a "taxpayers' charter" which children's schools had been seen, irrelevant personal evidence read. Taxpayers were obliged to spend money on additional information.

Other proposals included a charter where the Revenue manuals should be public, and that changes to tax law should be subject to a standing committee of the House of Commons.

No extra nurses despite hospital attack

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

A recommendation by an inquiry, set up after two children had been attacked, that 73 more nurses be added to St Lawrence's mental hospital, Bodmin, cannot be implemented because there is no money to pay for them.

A patient at the hospital is awaiting trial accused of attempted murder after two sisters, aged 12 and six, had been attacked.

The inquiry, chaired by Mr Arthur Phillips, former deputy chief constable of Devon and Cornwall, also recommended that additional steps should be taken to stop children getting into the grounds.

Mr Gordon Bellingham, chairman of Cornwall Area Health Authority, said in a statement issued yesterday with the inquiry report, that there was no hope of providing 73 more nurses.

Five remand on drug charge

Four men were remanded in custody today in connection with the alleged sale of drugs worth nearly £750.

They were Michael aged 29, of Frigate, Chesham; Kenneth aged 35, of Columbi, Bethnal Green; John aged 29, of no fixed address; West, aged 34, of 34, Avenue, Ilford; and Helen Stevens, aged 34, of Sackville Estate, South London.

Police driver pay strike

More than 300 civilian staff of the Metropolitan Police staged a 24-hour strike today. They are demanding a 10 per cent increase in their pay, which is £40 and £52 a week.

ME NEWS

air fare to Scotland to only £4.33 more than rail cost

Mr Reed, a representative of the airline, said that the new fare would be available from Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday on two return flights between London and Glasgow and one return flight between London and Edinburgh, and on all flights on both routes on Saturdays and Sundays.

The £1 single fare for children would be available from November 1 to January 11 inclusive for any child of 12 and under travelling on an off-peak Scottish flight with at least one adult.

British Caledonian also announced a low winter week-end fare of 15 single between London and Manchester. It said that it would apply to the aviation authority for permission to increase normal single fares on its services to Scotland by £2 to £2.5.

The cheap fares, which are equivalent to a discount of 40 per cent, have been promoted by British Caledonian in an attempt to drum up more traffic on its domestic routes, which last year lost £2m. The airline forecasts that an extra 40,000 passengers would travel with it this winter.

High Court writ: The British Airports Authority has issued a High Court writ against Trans World Airlines in an attempt to ban the American company from selling cheap stand-by tickets at Heathrow airport, London, (the Press Association reports).

The BAA said it is concerned at passenger congestion caused by sale of the tickets, is claiming damages alleging trespass, nuisance and breach of contract.

US tanker jets at Fairford in September

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

A few KC-135 tanker aircraft of the United States Air Force will be operating from the base at Fairford, Gloucestershire, next month during the annual series of Nato exercises code-named Autumn Forge.

The number of aircraft is expected to be fewer than half a dozen. A decision to allow the United States Air Force to use the base was announced by the Ministry of Defence last month amid complaints from local people, who are concerned about the possible effects of noise and fumes on the Cotswold countryside.

A United States Air Force survey team of 60 men has visited Fairford to decide what extra facilities are needed before 15 tankers and their crews start to move there on a permanent basis. The first five aircraft are expected next May.

The exercises will also mean an increase of up to two thirds in the number of tankers at Mildenhall, Suffolk, the present KC-135 base.

For 60 days from mid-August the total deployed there will rise from an average of 15 to about 25 (compared with 35 for last year's exercises). As many as 200 special sorties will be made in September, in addition to routine tanker flights. The peak will be on September 2, when 16 sorties will be needed to support the deployment of F14 Phantoms from their American base at Ramstein, in West Germany.

Whitehall brief: Sage of Nuffield reflects on government A lone voice preaching against bigness

By Peter Hennessy

When it comes to the inner workings of government, wise old birds come no dumber than Sir Norman Chester, who retired last week after 24 years as Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford.

Life in Whitehall these days is one Nuffield man after another, from Dr Bernard Donoghue, senior policy adviser to the Prime Minister, to Sir Ian Eassey, head of the Home Civil Service and a visiting fellow at the college.

If the thrust of postwar government has gone awry, nobody is better placed than Sir Norman to know why. He was present at the creation.

As a wartime temporary civil servant in the economic secretariat of the Cabinet Office he was secretary to the Beveridge committee, which laid the foundations of the welfare state, and junior secretary to the committee that drafted the White Paper on full employment in 1944, which predicted the more or less interventionist economic strategies pursued by successive governments ever since.

Sir Norman does not like all the curves in present-day Whitehall and Westminster. In one area, the tortuous world of the nationalised industries, of whose inception he is official historian, his critique has been remarkably consistent.

From the start he was a lone voice counselling against centralisation and bigness. In the Public Record Office there rests a draft memorandum by Mr D. N. Chester, as he then was, on the "problems and principles of socialization". ("Socialization" was Herbert Morrison's word, which he preferred to "nationalization"). Dated October 25, 1945, it reads:

There is much to be said in favour of dividing large national industries into sections or regions, instead of placing them under one national board. The word "nationalization" has tended to become single national ownership, whereas the same result might well be achieved by having public ownership in the form of several regional boards.

It is not easy to run an industry from Whitehall, and with a strongly centralized administration there is a tendency for power to be concentrated in the hands of those not directly concerned with the industry, but with its purely administrative and political aspects.

In conversation nearly 33 years later he is even more acerbic: "We never really recovered from creating these large-scale monopolies. There was nobody who had run anything that size. Government departments do not really do things. The Ministry of Fuel and Power never dug a ton of coal in its life, but it expressed views."

There has always been a bit of a radical lurking behind the craggy exterior of Warden Chester. For that reason, the late Richard Crossman wanted him to head the last royal commission on local government, but was dissuaded by his civil servants.

Over the past two decades, for example, Sir Norman has steadily jettisoned the orthodox view of Whitehall Westminster relations and traditional ministerial control over the bureaucracy.

So many important decisions now rest in the hands of civil servants and never reach ministers, he believes. "It is amazing that civil servants are so temperate, having so much power. I find myself pretty uneasy about these things. The Civil Service is quite capable of putting friction in the wheels if it does not like something."

His remedies are to increase Parliament's power to investigate and to persuade the Civil Service to allow the public to make more mistakes. A stronger Commons might make for a weaker government, "but I must confess, the idea of any party coming back with a majority of a hundred does not fill me with enthusiasm."



Sir Norman Chester: "It is amazing that civil servants are so temperate, having so much power."

Royal yacht change for Queen after union action

The Queen and Prince Edward avoided becoming involved in a union dispute when they arrived back in Britain yesterday from the Commonwealth Games in Canada.

After arriving at Glasgow airport in a Royal Canadian Air Force jet aircraft they were due to join the royal yacht Britannia at Greenock, on the Clyde.

But because the men who operate the gangplanks at Greenock and the tugboat crews responsible for berthing Britannia are industrial civil servants involved in a pay dispute with the Government, the sailing was switched a few miles up the Clyde to Gourock.

There they were met by a Royal Navy launch, which ferried them and their luggage to the Britannia, moored about 100 yards offshore.

The Queen and Prince Edward were met at the jetty by Princess Anne, who arrived unexpectedly from Arrshire, where she was attending some horse trials. She stayed on board the Britannia.

Several hundred people were waiting at Gourock to greet the Queen, who stopped several times on the jetty to chat to cadets and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme winners who lined the route.

The Queen and Prince Edward are to cruise in the Britannia off the west coast of Scotland before arriving in Orkney on Saturday for an official visit.

W guide to holidays

A Geddes
Correspondent

A guide for people who keep busy holiday holidays yesterday. Range from Austria to China and from lace-making to musical tours, it contains information on thousands of national, cultural and holidays available in the guide is published by the Central Bureau for Central Visits and External Visits.

50-page booklet, which rates entries for 35 including Britain, gives details of when and to study holidays take and sometimes how much and samples the addresses and telephone of the organizations that give more information.

is also a section on travel and bus travel, on passports, medical insurance and insurance, of other services by the central bureau international penfriend volunteer work school and exchange, and work abroad.

introduction Mr James director of the bureau, booklet is aimed at people who are not have much money, we courses in almost field of study for graduates, teachers, holidays (Central Bureau 43 Dorset Street, London, N. 1, 35p or £1.50). Also obtainable from with, booksellers).

Dismissal by Salvation Army unfair

The Salvation Army yesterday admitted at an industrial tribunal hearing in Newcastle upon Tyne that it had unfairly dismissed Miss Sheila McColl, an envoy who had been earning £18 a week at Langley Moor, county Durham.

Miss McColl, aged 30, told the tribunal that she wanted to be reinstated. The tribunal adjourned the case until September 14 after Mr Patrick Cosgrove, counsel for the army, said they had come to the hearing to deal with compensation, not reinstatement.

Mr Cosgrove said the army would not resist a finding that Miss McColl had been unfairly dismissed. She had not been paid between December, 1977, and last March.

"The withholding of salary was by an honorary officer and the matter was put right by a full-time officer before the date of dismissal", he said.

After the hearing Miss McColl, of Hills Avenue, Whitehaven, Cumbria, said: "It was an impossible situation". While she was working full-time at Langley Moor, her duties included running services in Tow Law, 16 miles away, on a Sunday, when there were no buses.

The Salvation Army said in London that when Miss McColl and her superior were appointed it was understood there would be two different centres to work, Langley Moor and Tow Law. They were given an allowance for a car, but later it was discovered that it had broken down beyond repair.

There had been a failure in communications.

ling Europe to Wales

ps the greatest tribute Mr Gwyn Morgan is that the regions in are beginning to for someone like him. of the Welsh Information of the European Community in Cardiff has helped to steer £260m towards the city.

money, in the form of loans and guidance, has ad to improve life in a of forms including in miners' cottages e sinking of the new ite pit at Ammanford,

tangible benefits of membership have modis hterness with which cal authorities regarded uepan venture, and h they may not love the ey have realized that it of life.

rgan is a kind of ror-sador for the EEC in. He has CD plates on his l his ebullient persona- well-suited to his role as r of an ideal that y cost him the job us ry of the Labour Party. as always been excited concept of a United and his undisguised asm was not universally by the party's hierarchy the time he was assist- eral secretary.

politics of Wales is a n where offence is eas- n during his time idiff Mr Morgan has the not-so-obvious es with consummate

National Eisteddfod told this week in Cardiff s a good example of the cy that is sometimes ry to maintain impartial- argan and his advisers ntinue to help but mind- possible controversy so critical

four pensioners poisoned n of salmon a week ago ill critically ill in a sham hospital yesterday.

Regional report

Tim Jones Cardiff

they decided that the EEC should provide the first prize in the brass band competition. Last the significance of that he lost on readers in England, it is a way of helping the Prince- palty's premiere festival without plunging into the language controversy.

Some decisions have not been so easy and it was a matter of bitter personal disappointment to Mr Morgan when he decided that professional impartiality dictated his withdrawal from the Wales for the assembly campaign.

The establishment of a Welsh assembly has been the second passion in Mr Morgan's life and he was one of the authors of the Labour Party's evidence to the Commission on the Constitution. In spite of his decision to cease actively campaigning for an assembly Mr Morgan remains convinced that devolution is a crucial element in the development of democracy.

Two years ago he told The Times that his special skills are knowing whom to approach in Brussels and the expertise he gained during his time as chief de cabinet to Mr George Thomson.

Mr Morgan is essentially a politician and has stated his intention of standing for election to the European Parliament, where he would hope to demonstrate even more convincingly to the Welsh that Brussels does more than try to impose regulations governing the guise of lawmakers.

Town bans lorries

Oundle, in Northamptonshire, has banned heavy traffic for six weeks while repairs costing £30,000 are done to the market square and main road.

Philips VCR. Six years ahead of any other home video cassette system.

The Philips N1700 2½ hour Video Cassette Recorder.

Philips invented home video cassette recording over six years ago. That's six years ahead of the competition.

Philips is the European system invented in Europe for European television, unlike other systems that were developed in Japan for American television and adapted for use in Europe.

This is why the Philips N1700 has such superb picture and sound quality. Our new range of low cost LVC Video Cassettes offers you up to 2½ hours recording time on the N1700.

And you can play them back whenever you like or, if you wish, they can be erased and re-used just like audio cassettes.

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After six years no wonder Philips is Europe's best-known, best trusted video cassette system.

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TORE SWING	119-21
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252; dual forecast, 95g, R. Crald,	
N.winter.	
DAILY DOUBLE: £76.75. TREBLE:	
\$31.63.	

THE ARTS

Edinburgh Film Festival

This year's Edinburgh Film Festival, from August 20 to September 2, will include a survey of the avant-garde cinema in the United Kingdom, a retrospective of the films of Max Ophüls, work from the new German cinema and a conference on the future of independent production in Britain.

Among the films to be shown will be Paul Schrader's *Blue Collar*, Shuji Terayama's *The Boxer*, Jonathan Demme's *Citizen's Band*, Monte Helman's *Cine 9 Liberty 37*, Walter Hill's *The Driver*, the collectively produced *Germany in Autumn*, Peter Handke's *The Left-Handed Woman* and Ron Peck's *Nightshades*.

ART GALLERIES

GRANVILLE GALLERY
175 Argyll Street, SW1, 01-584 7266
Contemporary British works of art. Henry Moore, Ben Nicholson, Matthew Smith, Peter Lanyon, Kenneth Martin, John Hoyland, David Hockney, Francis Bacon, etc. Open daily 10-6.

FINE ART SOCIETY
148 New Bond St., W1, 01-499 3116
SUMMER EXHIBITION
LUMLEY CAZLEY, 21 Davies St., W1, 01-499 3116
ORIGINAL PRINTS—Bauhaus, Cubism, etc. Open daily 10-6.

MARTIN GALLERY
175 Argyll Street, SW1, 01-584 7266
Recent work by ANITA, ALLEN, LEE, KOKOSCHKA, MODER, PASCARD, WOODWARD. Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 10-5.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY
London WC2, 01-493 8511. CAMERA PORTRAITS. NIPPER's contemporary exhibition. Also, 20th Century Portraits. National Portrait Gallery, London WC2, 01-493 8511. Open daily 10-6.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS SUMMER EXHIBITION
Admission 50p. Sunday 2.50p. 10-6. 20th Summer Exhibition, 21st May-19th August.

BRITISH PRINTS
From Impressionism to Abstraction. 1805-1978. 10-6. 20th Summer Exhibition, 21st May-19th August.

WILLIAM WESTON GALLERY
7 Royal Albert, Albany St., W1, 1-493 0722. Mon-Fri 10-6, closed Sat.

Ponnelle triumphs again in wide open spaces

Die Zauberflöte
Salzburg Festival

John Higgins

"A rocky area with trees here and there". The opening stage direction for Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* virtually suggests that it was tailor-made for Salzburg's Felsenreitschule, the Rocky Riding School above the festival theatres. The literal-minded may complain that there is one tree, but it is a simple matter to provide some more; and I know of no house which more exactly complies with Schikaneder's requirements.

So it is that the Felsenreitschule that Jean-Pierre Ponnelle and James Levine have gone for this year's new *Flute*. They may well have been influenced, too, by the fact that it was up here among the arcades cut into the rock face that they had their earlier Salzburg success together two years ago with *La clemenza di Tito*. Then Ponnelle made a virtue out of the immense span of the acting area; this summer he goes to even greater extremes, to the length and breadth of those stony cloisters.

The dragon, which opens the opera, is the clearest possible demonstration that the only way to use the Felsenreitschule is to use the Felsenreitschule. Its head pursues Tamino across the scrub and dusty crust of the stage while the rest of its serpentine body spreads through those cloisters up to the roof of the theatre. It is a monster not to be measured in mere metres, but it is vulnerable. The Three Ladies kill it by the simple expedient of accepting from behind that head: they happen to be the first three vertebrate of that snaky spinal column.

This is Ponnelle's earliest statement about the pantomime element of *Zauberflöte*. A few minutes before he had recalled the masonic rite by a triangle of white light which expanded during the first half of the overture before burning itself out. The key to a successful *Zauberflöte* is keeping everything in balance. It is an opera about opposites, the sun and the moon, light and dark, the noble and the simple man, the elevated and the earthy, the insiders and the outsiders, and ultimately, about Singespil and grand opera. The triumph of Ponnelle's production is his desire for his early embarking on the former without engaging himself for the latter, is the skill with which he has welded the divergent parts together. The same ingenuity and artistry runs through every moment of



James Levine, Martti Tallela and Heana Cotrubas

James Levine's conducting of the score: there is the delight in the simplest music for Papageno and relief for the elevated, almost pompous tones in which Sarastro's followers banish evil with the brilliant light of day. He makes no cuts, yet in his hands there is never a tedious moment.

Ponnelle surrounds his principals with their own worlds. Sarastro is the Sun King, exuding golden rays. They come from the fiery meditation hanging from his neck, from the mane of his four attendant lions, from the glowing orb in the centre of the Felsenreitschule which casts beams like golden spears across the theatre. Martti Tallela, a giant of a Sarastro, makes it clear in demeanour and voice that in no way can his word be doubted or questioned. An imposingly grand performance.

Around Sarastro there is a perceptive court led by the Speaker (Jose van Dam) and privileged messengers in the shape of the Three Boys (a trio of altos from the Bad Tölz, who sing so clearly and accurately in this large house that there can be no excuse for making

female substitutions in the future). The latter also happen to be dressed to look much like the young Mozart, one of Ponnelle's several references to the century in which the opera was written.

The Queen of the Night is made to live up to her name, Astrafiamante, so that she lives in a constellation of blazing stars which form around her a series of concentric haloes from midnight-blue to ruby-red. Edita Gruberova did not find her true form for the first time and which then of the Night does?—but her delivery of "Der Hölle Rache" had all the brilliance of her stony paucity. Impossible to imagine anyone better in the rôle today. Ponnelle points up the rivalry between the Night Queen and the Sun King by having Astrafiamante overtake Sarastro's aria to Pamina, "In diseo hell'gen Hallen".

Papageno's kingdom is the stage, as it was of Emanuel Schikaneder, Mozart's librettist and the creator of the rôle. Ponnelle provides his Papageno with a small acting area and a painted backdrop which rise

simultaneously from the earth of the Felsenreitschule. Christian Boesch bursts through the canvas to sing "Der Vogel-fänger bin ich ja" as Schikaneder might have done in this very same city where Mozart used to go along to see his troupe perform. Boesch, from the Vienna Volkstheater, is a natural entertainer with a rich and rounded baritone. There is nothing fey or birdlike about the interpretation, he does not even bother to stick oily feathers on his dungarees; this Papageno charms by being direct and knowing full well that it is more comfortable to get by than aim for the top.

Tamino, by contrast, has no world but that of personal aspiration. He is the unknown prince, courtly in bearing, a little elderly in appearance. Eric Tappy does not fill him out with much character, but there is plenty of compensation in his bright and unfurling mystery. Heana Cotrubas sings, superbly, the aria "In diseo hell'gen Hallen", and her performance is a triumph again in the Felsenreitschule. There is time to right it before next summer when *Zauberflöte* is revived at Salzburg alongside new productions of *Aida*, conducted by Karajan, and probably *Tristan* under the control of Karl Böhm.

a superbly affecting performance, which manages to combine the wide-eyed wonder of the ingenue who has to fight off the Monastatoses of life with the mature womanliness of "Ach ich fühl's". Miss Cotrubas is physically drier than everything in this Pamina is of the highest artistic stature. Salzburg indeed have assembled an outstanding female cast for this *Flute*, with the exception of Elisabeth Kaley's charming Papagena.

The other failure is the Monastatoses of Remy Corazza, which is indifferently sung. Here Ponnelle at last has run out of invention: Moostatos appears to have no place in the scheme of the evening and for no clear reason is despised and disliked by his blackamoors band. This is the blondest of performers where in all other respects James Levine and Jean Pierre Ponnelle have triumphed again in the Felsenreitschule. There is time to right it before next summer when *Zauberflöte* is revived at Salzburg alongside new productions of *Aida*, conducted by Karajan, and probably *Tristan* under the control of Karl Böhm.

Sport, they think, is meant for winning

Cuba
BBC2

Joan Bakewell

Hard on the heels of the BBC1 programme *Afternoon from Edmonton* came BBC2's appropriate repeat of a report on Cuban sport by Ron Pickering, a former Olympic coach. It was probably the wildest piece of scheduling in the summer. The Commonwealth Games, which take their pedigree from an imperial system mellowed by age and modern politics into a family of nations, while Cuban athletes take their drive from the sparkling energy of a political system unabashed by its own eagerness to prove itself better than any other.

The Victorians must surely have cared about winning, but somewhere along the British line, and perhaps the philistine throwists were responsible, the idea of "the game's the thing" began to percolate. Soon sportsmanship for us meant being a good loser. And once that thought was formulated, it offered an irresistible option. After all, you can train for being a good loser by not having good training facilities, by not giving young athletes proper training and by staying in bed.

I doubt if the Cubans care for losers. They may even take back their state-funded homes and their supplementary food rations.

This programme traced the Cuban connection between sport and politics, not as the soft pursuits of gentlemen, but as hard proof, in the face of neighbouring hostility, that a small revolutionary island can produce winners.

It begins early. Mothers are urged to massage their babies' limbs with Olympic medals in view. Health is part of the revolution and sports medicine and psychiatry are brought in to help. It is a triumph of the revolutionary will over resources.

Ron Pickering was dazzled by it all. But it was good for once to hear the unqualified enthusiasm rather than the carefully balanced report.

The athletes, keen of spirit and keen of muscle, were good to watch. Success is an addictive subject, and white smiles and golden limbs make good posters.

Gross etchings

Fresh from forcefully reminding us of the distinctive talents of one neglected twentieth-century British artist, Bernard Meninsky, Blood Fine Art take up the cause of another, Anthony Gross. Since his early death in 1950 Meninsky really has been almost totally disregarded, despite the progressive reevaluation of his close contemporary Gertrude and Bomberg, but his monumental pastels, with their heavy-limbed women in Miltonic landscapes, have a mystery and repose which suggest now Palmer, now Massacio, now the neo-classical Picasso, and yet are quite unlike any of them in final effect. For anyone who missed the recent one-man show there are some survivors and a couple of newcomers in the mixed summer show which occupies the front part of the gallery.

Anthony Gross, to be fair, has not been so much neglected as taken for granted. It is a new 10 years since a retrospective of his graphic work at the Victoria and Albert, and meanwhile he has been working quietly away, within the confines of his own recognisable style but at the same time changing and developing with such consistency that one could place the prints in this new show more or less in order (they range in date from 1928 to 1978) on internal evidence only. To an extent makes this easy in that it is one side of his talent to show a very acute reaction to the times he is living in: when human figures are prominent in the designs they are treated with a warmth and gentle mockery (which it would be oversteering to call satirical) which includes a very sharp eye for fashion and attitude. What could be more than a caricature of the Thirties than an etching like *Las Sardanias* of 1934, showing peasants and fisherfolk merrymaking in the style of his contemporary animated cartoon *Joie de Vivre*? Compare it with *St Michael* of 1974, of miniskirts in Marks and Spencer's.

There is another side, though, which comes over in the landscapes covered by figures. In an etching like *Winter Grasses* of 1972 the spidery, playful lines become harsh and spiky: the vision is closest to Sutherland's feeling for the hidden, dangerous forces in root and branch. And two of the largest, most ambitious prints of the early 1960s, *Les Mamelons* and *Reclining Figure*, reach out towards a bolder, stranger synthesis, in which gaunt, geometrical landscapes are seen over, around, and actually inside the monstrously suggested human figures vastly sprawled in the foreground. Clearly, from the most recent prints, Gross has not yet by any means exhausted the expressive possibilities of his style or had his final graphic say on the subjects of his choice.

John Russell Taylor

Rough Theatre
Central Piazza, Covent Garden

Irving Wardle

Rough Theatre is a street theatre group from the heart of West London's corrugated iron belt; they turn up in derelict spaces with a laugh, a joke and a song for audiences with no roof over their heads. Their message, and the title of one of their plays, is "Squat Now While Stocks Last", and they are not too insistent about passing the hat round. "This," they complained to one penniless spectator, "is like bringing coal to nowhere near Newcastle."

This week they are playing lunchtime raudeville in Covent Garden, as one of the free neighbourhood shows presented by Alternative Arts. I would rather have seen one of their plays, but as the Italian Garden and its tasteful array of Graeco-Roman remains is already knee-deep in tonic wine empires, one can see the

hazards of attempting a dramatic performance. Theatricality, in fact, is the subject of the show which consists of a stormy rehearsal between an up-market actor in a suit and two clowns who sabotage his plans for appealing to the chic Garden audience of "ouevous layabouts in patchwork dungarees".

Two things stand out. It is a show about things going wrong, but its circus tricks are extremely skilful, and nothing goes wrong with the scapology and sword swallowing in spite of interruptions from "muzzling dogs and Glaswegian winos." I commended the three-man juggling fight to all circus enthusiasts. Second, the straight routines are most cunningly set up to prop up the moments when the trio converge and sham over what they have to say about rising damp, council vandalism, and hammer-swinging landlords. Some of this is cross-talk; some of it goes to fine old puns like "Leaning on a Lamp-post" and "Any Old Iron" from which the group take their rousing theme song:

No water, no gas
and the mains are smashed
Can't even have a fire-on
and the whole of the street
is one long sheet of corrugated iron.

Songmakers' Almanac
Wigmore Hall

Barry Millington

Having already made something of a reputation for themselves with unconventional, thought-provoking recitals of songs, the Songmakers' Almanac added to their laurels on Saturday night with a highly entertaining programme featuring the contribution of women poets and composers to the genre. Among those snatching a brief moment of glory were Mrs Anne Hunter, Marianne von Willemer and Helmina von Chézy, acquainted more or less intimately with, respectively, Goethe, Schuberth, and Fanny Mendelssohn. Clara Schumann and Alma Mahler, showing progressively less concern with the supposedly feminine virtues of charm and grace, and becoming increasingly outspoken in emotional expression.

The songs were preceded and interspersed with pertinent quotations from sources as diverse as Confucius, Molière

and James Thurber, which illustrated some of the barriers that have prevented women through the ages from making a greater impact on the creative arts; the male guffaws greasing some of the more offensively chauvinist pronouncements suggested that there is still a long way to go.

The almost self-parodying Ethel Smyth is rarely taken seriously, but this selection revealed her intelligence and sensitive side. The programme ended with a contemporary female composer's setting of nine male poets: Judith Bingham's *Playing With Words* wittily and wisely commented on the relationship between music and poetry—"the sister and the brother".

Graham Johnson devised and annotated the entertainment, besides accompanying superbly; Yvonne Kenny, Alexander Oliver and Richard Jackson were the equally distinguished vocal exponents. The Songmakers' Almanac is strongly recommended to anybody who wishes to explore the song-repertoire from a new perspective, while retaining the highest level of musical accomplishment.

Festival Ballet
exhibition

The first major exhibition of the work of the London Festival Ballet since its foundation, in 1950 has gone on show at the Festival Hall and will run until September 16. The exhibition is dedicated to the company's founder, the late Dr. Julian Broussé, and includes photographs, set designs and costumes.

Festival Ballet start a three-week season at the Festival Hall on August 21, performing *Swan Lake* for the first fortnight and then a programme of shorter works for the remainder of the week.

Coward revival at
Bath

Triumph Theatre Productions launch a new production of Noel Coward's *Suite in Two Keys* at Bath on August 14.

Directed by Nigel Patrick, it stars Margaret Lockwood, Phyllis Calvert and Robert Fleming, and after Bath will go on tour to such places as Richmond, Croydon, Newcastle, Birmingham and Cardiff.

The proof of the talent

ECYO/Judd

Albert Hall

Judith Nagley

The London stage of the International Festival of Youth Orchestras ended on Sunday with a concert by the European Community Youth Orchestra under their assistant musical director, James Judd (deputising for short notice for Lorin Maazel), with their president, Edward Heath, that indefatigable European, as guest conductor.

The orchestra, formed earlier this year from the nine member countries of the EEC, recently peddled Mahler's sixth symphony round Europe to great acclaim, and on Sunday they fielded a more modest, although arguably no less taxing programme.

Whether through this symbol of European cooperation the ECYO musicians are (as the programme pompously stated) better equipped for a future role in the welfare and betterment of the European Community is doubtful, but there was at any rate no disputing the musical talent on show.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

A world premiere, Britten's lightweight overture to *Paul Bunyan* rejected by the composer when he was revising the opera in 1973, served as appropriate introduction to his *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, given a rousing performance that amply demonstrated both the virtuosity of individual sections and Mr Judd's well-balanced view of the work.

The Prelude to the third act of *La traviata* also served to show the finely controlled emotional intensity of the strings. Brahms's *Academic Festival Overture*, the last item in this batch-pitch, was given an affectionate interpretation by Mr Heath. He chose to highlight the lyrical rather than the dramatic qualities and, despite an unsettled patch towards the end, safely reached port in a well-paced and enthusiastic final tutti.

It was Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* that left no doubt as to the orchestra's capabilities. James Judd's highly sensitive programme was a balanced piece between subtle expression and wild excitement. He coaxed a precision and brilliance from the orchestra that would have done credit to many professional ensembles.

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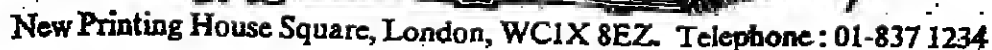
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CONCLUSIONS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

It is not necessary to have to show, in justification of the trip, that the British delegates achieved any practical results, but the likelihood is that their formal and informal interventions challenging the political orthodoxy dominating the festival had a minimal but positive effect. They managed to set on an anti-capitalist, pro-revolutionary, communist line. They were able to make speeches on issues which, quite literally, many of those there had never heard discussed openly before. They distributed leaflets giving information about the trials of dissidents like Shcharansky and Orlov, which, he, of course, never been available to most of the other participants at the festival. British

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
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THE VOICE OF DISSENT

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their festive statements commenced as politically-motivated ones, does not mean that their efforts have been totally in vain. For perhaps the first time since the inception of these festivals this was the eleventh, but the first held outside eastern Europe delegates have been subjected to views which did not conform with the rigid ideology which they are accustomed to. That can have done only good. The split within the British delegation itself must have been a lesson, though a puzzling one, in the freedom to disagree. It is a pity that the delegation did not consist of an even wider cross-section of political opinion, which would have been the case had some groups not chosen the path of the boycott instead.

From Mr. E. J. Wilkins

just when the aircraft was enroute - August 2.

an interesting point as to whether such a refusal would amount to contempt. While there is no doubt that a refusal to answer questions put by a court of law amounts to contempt (see *Re A-G v Mulholland and Foster* (1963) 2 Q.B. 7) the question remains whether the same rule applies to Industrial Tribunals. This will hinge on whether the Tribunal could be considered a court for the purposes of the Contempt of Court Act 1951. In *Re A-G v BBC* (1978) 2 All E.R. 731 it seems that it could be. In that case in holding that a valuation court constituted a "court" for the purposes of contempt, Lord Widgery CJ took into account the following three features—namely, that its decisions are final and binding subjects of course to appeal. (2) it has the power to hear the

From the Chairman of the Joint Inquiry

own censorship on them. August 3. --

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and the evidenc

Building at Greenwich . . . such as this. Once

impartial opinion not have been, August 4.

turned the scales at Kohima". . . Havant,
Mr. father General Wingate's

judge whether this was achieved.
 ous etc.
JAMES TULLOCH,
 1 Beaufort Mansions,
 1 Beaufort Street, SW3
 August 5, 1948

Repatriation of Russians
 from Mr Louis Fitzgibbon
 Sir, Lord Bell's severe letter
 August 3 is more than welcome in
 this country. It is a most
 confounding Mr Calvo-
 cess's attempt to smudge the truth
 about the forcible repatriation of
 Russians and, others, in 1948.
 (letters, August 1). That repatria-
 tion, especially of the refugee
 Russians, was a grossly illegal
 removal of the principal of non-
 settlement now enshrined in the
 Statute of the United Nations and
 humanitarian agency, UNHCR.
 As to the proposed memorial: I

of-iron curtain dis-
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 are the waiters.
 Over 60 years
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 immaculate tails.
 Yours etc.
PEARL BINDER,
 5 Gray's Inn Square
 August 4.

August 3. -

logic of this remarkable proposition
and the evidence to support it con-

such as this. Once the two sites have

August 4.

Havant,
Hampshire

of 1900 certain delegates on state occasions to this country is now the lounge suit. Since courtesy compels the host and his English guests to dress similarly, the only elegant alternative to this dressy dress occasion is the waiters.

Over 60 years after the Russian Revolution of 1917 it appears that the Kremlin has finally decided that the perfect expression of the proletarian proletariat is the petticoat suit. It is indeed so then the dress prescribed is more truthful than its intention.

It is nervous intellectuals who fear to dress up. The best dressed man I have ever seen was a huge blacker of a Labour Party annual dinner at the Savoy Hotel in immaculate tails.

Yours, etc.

PEARL BINDER.
6 Gray's Inn Square, W.C1.
August 4.

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1038.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

ionalization
for building
moderate'

16

Community steel shares may fall further 100,000 over two years

Industrial Editor

Loss of another 100,000 shares in the European Community steel industry over the next two years is forecast in a paper submitted by the committee of the Community's steel industry to the Commission of the European Communities.

The paper, which was submitted to the Commission of the European Communities, says that the steel industry's share of the Community's steel production is expected to fall from 100,000 in 1977 to 80,000 in 1979.

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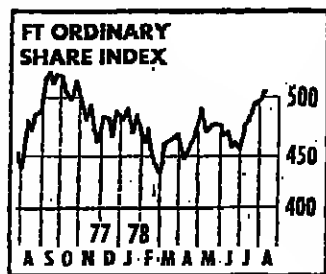
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Shares at highest level since November

By Peter Wainwright

The start of a new account had buyers in good form from the start of business in the stock market yesterday, and institutions, fearful of being left behind, bleatedly joined in.

Buyers swept the FT index up by 8.2 to 505.4, taking it through the 500 mark for the first time since November 11 last year. The peak was 549.2 on September 14 last year.

Further thoughts about the impact of the jump in the Petroleum Revenue Tax, and whether it will ever be implemented sent off shares forward, and gilt-edged gave support ahead of what are expected to be reasonable money supply figures today.

It was clear last week that the mood of the market had changed. This was exemplified by a cheerful circular from one of the City's most important brokers, Phillips & Drew who see interest rates falling with the growth in company profits beginning to quicken.

The general impression yesterday was that the latest surge has some way to run before holders take profits. The popular figure for this on the FT index is around 525. However, even at this point, only a temporary correction is expected.

It was also being pointed out that the new dividend loophole introduced by the Government last month did discriminate in favour of companies whose profits were growing strongly.

Moreover, the City has lately been taking a more confident view of the likely rate of inflation over the coming year and the capacity of dividends to beat it handsomely. Dividends could rise by up to 15 per cent in the coming year, with inflation trailing behind at 11 per cent or less.

Commercial Union Assurance closed four points higher at 162 after announcing higher first half earnings. Other insurance issues also rose. Legal and General, Prudential and General Accident, which is to announce its June half earnings on Wednesday, also closed with gains of four pence.

Financial Editor, page 17

Belfast car plant may cost UK £52m

By Robert Rodwell

Total cost to the British Government of the proposed American-owned sports car plant near Belfast could be considerably higher than the figures cited when the project was formally announced in Belfast last Thursday.

Mr Roy Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said the overall project costs would be about £65m. With the Lorean Motor Company's share being £40m (about £21m) this implied that the Government's total investment in equity, capital, grants and loans would be about £24m.

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, however, Mr John De Lorean, who is promoting the venture, said that the Government's total aid would slightly exceed \$100m (about £52m).

From Mr De Lorean's figures it would seem that the total investment expected from all sources would exceed £72m—or some £8m more than Mr Mason's stated figure.

The precise size of the Government's equity holding in the Northern Ireland Development Agency will not be known for about three months, when it is to be revealed through America's Security and Exchange Commission documents, but indications are that the Government's overall share of the costs could, in time, fall.

Mr De Lorean says his agreement with the Northern Ireland authorities calls on his company to continue "its best efforts" to raise additional equity capital which

could be substituted for the promised government funds if there are strong reports that Mr De Lorean has Mr George Turnbull, the former British Leyland managing director, in mind as the potential director in charge of production. Mr Turnbull formerly ran British Leyland's Austin-Morris car division before resigning in dissatisfaction with a reorganization of the company in 1973.

Later, he effectively put the new Korean car industry on the road at what was rumoured to be the highest car industry salary, up to £100,000 a year, tax free.

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Pilot plan on participation by Williams & Glyn's

By Christopher Thomas

Williams & Glyn's Bank is to institute widely expanded procedures for consultation and participation of its 6,000 staff.

The scheme will operate for an initial 12 months, after which it will be reviewed.

Two structures are to be established, one covering local matters such as workload, staff changes and levels, unit performance and branch organization.

The other will concern itself with corporate issues such as the bank's financial performance and results, manpower plans, pension, and technology and organizational changes.

It is the first step of its kind by any of the "Big Five" and has been negotiated with the National Union of Bank Employees (Nube). The agreement has undoubtedly been helped by the fact that Williams & Glyn's does not suffer from the Nube/staff association rift which afflicts other banks.

The plans have been circulated to all staff for comments and have been introduced. The new consultative machinery will operate in conjunction with the existing negotiation arrangements with Nube.

At corporate level, central consultative meetings will be held at least every three months. Members of staff will nominate two executive directors (one acting as chairman), one divisional director or deputy director, and two senior managers.

The union side will comprise two representatives of the union's Williams & Glyn's institutional committee, three additional staff members to be nominated by the union and drawn from varying levels and operational functions throughout the bank.

Additional members may be co-opted where necessary to provide specialist advice and assistance.

Minutes will be taken of each meeting and distributed to all members of the bank's executive. At least once a year a summary of the discussions and progress made during the previous 12 months will be given to all staff.

The structure for local consultation provides that each manager will hold quarterly meetings in working hours with all staff members for whom he is responsible.

Staff will get at least 10 working days' notice of the meetings so they can propose items for the agenda. A brief record of each meeting will be issued to staff.

The proposals follow the circulation last year of a joint working party interim report on employee participation. Every branch and department responded and the main conclusions were:

A significant majority favoured developing and improving consultation and participation. Many doubts were expressed about the effectiveness of any system which could be established.

There was overall satisfaction with arrangements for negotiations on terms and conditions of service between the bank and Nube.

Many staff believed the communication system within the bank could be improved, with greater opportunities for staff to make their opinions known.

In general, there was support for the development of improved consultation at local level, where staff could make an immediate contribution to any discussions, than for centralized consultations.

Vauxhall to lay off 3,000 at Ellesmere Port

By R. W. Shakespeare

Car workers on Merseyside who are now in the final week of a three-week holiday have been told not to report back for work next Monday when their plant would normally reopen. Management at Ellesmere Port, Vauxhall Motors complex, have told 3,000 members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers that the plant will remain closed and they will be laid off until a strike by 3,000 other workers—members of the Transport and General Workers' Union—is settled.

The trouble at Ellesmere Port began two weeks before the holidays when 100 lorry drivers walked out over a long dispute about a productivity pay claim

and a shorter working week. Later 3,000 assembly workers, also members of the TGWU, joined the strike in support.

Although this action stopped all final assembly operations and halted output of Chevette and Viva cars, other production areas were kept open until the holiday break. Last week the strike was declared official by the TGWU.

The drivers' ferry components between Ellesmere Port and Vauxhall's other plants at Luton and Dunstable. They are demanding productivity increases based on the hourly introduction of a fleet of 100 new vehicles. They also want working hours brought into line with those of production workers.

If the strike at Ellesmere Port goes on, work at Luton and Dunstable will be progressively affected and there could be some loss of jobs there.

Chrysler's big car plant at Linwood in Scotland reopened yesterday after its three-week holiday shutdown. This followed the settlement of a strike by 550 paintshop workers which closed the plant for two weeks before the holidays, made 8,000 other workers idle and stopped the output of cars worth £20m.

Production also resumed yesterday at Leyland's mini assembly lines at Longbridge, Birmingham. Production was halted last week and 1,700 workers laid off because of a strike by transporter drivers employed by a British Road Services depot at Castle Bromwich. These drivers move car body shells from Castle Bromwich to the assembly areas.

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Deutsche mark gains expense of dollar

line Atkinson

Deutsche mark was the focus of attention on foreign exchange yesterday when there was a switch out of dollars into the German currency. The rate rose sharply to 2.2034 to the dollar on the DM-2.009 at yesterday's closing.

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dollar. It came back later in the day to close at 1.708 Swiss francs.

Dealers were unsure whether the Swiss authorities had intervened in the markets to curb the franc's rise.

The Swiss Government and Businessmen have grown increasingly worried about the franc's appreciation in the past few weeks. They are more concerned about its rise against the Deutschmark than against the dollar.

The mark has recently been in the "background" on the exchange markets, and has fallen to record lows against the Swiss franc and the dollar.

Sterling was slightly weaker against most currencies yesterday, moving with the dollar for much of the day.

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THE EDITOR
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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Firmer ground for equities

an account got off to a flying start day with the Financial Times index through the 500-mark. There still to be no great conviction, however, equities are really in a new (but probably the last) phase of this bull market. It does appear to have changed its sentiment following the Government's surrender to the City's pressures in the package. And the opportunity of not being fully committed in it, particularly at a time when much has gone out of gilts, has become a treat for the institutions to remain

mainly to judge by yesterday's modest rise in activity is still subdued. The business is all one way, as it was yesterday, and jobbers are short of stock in only one way the market can go. A bull point, however, remains the push of a small cut in interest rates, rising of liquidity in the money market and the results of the Treasury bill both point to perhaps a half a point this week or next. This prospect, to be reinforced by today's banking which should show a small fall in liabilities, should produce a positive tone in gilts especially after last disappointing reception to the long

economic news, too, continues to be a stable backdrop for the market. Yesterday's retail figures, and use for instalment credit, underlined downward in consumer spending, but was good news on the inflation front. Wholesale price figures, elsewhere fundamentals in the shape of dividend potential in the corporate sector also begun, to look rather better in weeks.

Latest review of institutional funds James Capel argues that there is availability of cash both for institutions to buy equities and repair their. Overall purchases could be lower this year but on the supply side the number of rights issues will divert interest out of existing holdings. But none of this adds up to a strong market, especially if there are likely election jitters every so often in the months, and the previous 549 high till looks an uncomfortable way away.

Commercial Union
arning on
rwriting
merit results, season for composite price groups, an off to a firm start with serial Union's declaration of a 68 per cent jump to £64.2m. This was a big end of City expectations and the strong rebound in CU's fortunes was mainly from the upswing in the States underwriting cycle.

group's overall underwriting deficit improved from £19.9m to £4.3m although improvement is due, significantly, to the loss of extreme weather losses by special reserve. Over £4m has been

ed from the extreme weather provision against a previous debit of £15.9m. The United States a hiccup in the improving underwriting trend. Left the half-year operating ratio at per cent against 99 per cent in the quarter, was due mainly to the exceptionally bad weather experience. But CU's sound warning that the cycle owing some signs of peaking, par-

nel Management, the of the Institute of Management, has as the theme of its essay competition "Per- Management". Unfortunately, is to spend much of the money on attending the conference and its. Were I to win, I'd spend the cash on strong and weak women. Mind when I think of some the "ences" I've attended, where was I? Ah yes, no, not Room 101.

ed the broken figure the brainy welfare officers ed past the bench where on was covering. at this Room 101 body kept going on about, red Winston. What was there was it? And who hat to whom, bow, why or how long?

1984
aning, Winston sank to oor, for all these questions too, for his feeble body, came from worry and sleep, he slid down so hly that he came to rest when he fetched up at the wall behind and be- the bench. He would lain there quite invisible shadows of the seat, had is feet protruded. rien promptly tripped the feet as he came out office door.

cularly in property and the important mpr account. Elsewhere CU is seeking improving conditions in the United Kingdom, which has at last turned into profits, a slow recovery in Holland where underwriting losses are beginning to be cut back as a result of motor rate increases, but a significantly worsening picture in Australia where competition is becoming extremely fierce.

The key to the future is clearly how deep the next United States downturn will be, and whether lower inflation, different management objectives (particularly on new premiums), and capital restrictions can ensure that the next trough will be more shallow than that of 1973-74. Uncertainty on all these counts will act as a significant restraint on share price performance despite the strong improvements already revealed by most insurers.

CU itself still seems to be heading for profits of over £135m this year against £99.8m. The improvement in earnings will be reduced to around 10 per cent as a result of last year's rights issue.

The shares, up 2p to 161p, are offering a prospective p/e of around 7½ and have obvious income attractions in an above average prospective yield of 7.8 per cent. However, now that CU's recovery has worked through sector interest could centre more squarely on other groups—not least General Accident, which reports on Wednesday, and seems to be the only composite able to take advantage of the new rules on dividend cover. CA's cover peaked last year and the group would seem to have the scope to raise its payment by around 20 per cent this time.

Allied Breweries/Lyons.
The question of diversification

After the mangling it took last Friday, Allied Breweries' share price recovered some of its poise yesterday with a 2p rise to 86p. Lyons, by contrast, dipped 4p to 133p against the bid price of 158p, a differential which points to the clear scepticism about the deal that has emerged in the stock market. The institutions' initial reaction is one of concern over the long-term implications for Allied. Partly it is gut feeling that Lyons is high risk territory which, while it could come dramatically, right, is unlikely to derive much help from Allied management in the process. The deal would mean while Allied's gearing uncomfortably at a time when it has embarked on an ambitious investment programme of its own.

But, important though these issues are, the real question for shareholders is not so much whether it is right for Allied to be buying Lyons as whether it is right for Allied to be embarking upon any important diversification at all. The City is increasingly sharing Government's growing distaste for big conglomerate bids, albeit for the rather different reason that they have too often proved expensive flops. When there is a clear case of a one-product company in an ex-growth industry—Imperial Group is the classic example—the argument for diversification may be powerful, but Allied is not viewed in this light at all.

It is true that the beer market's projected volume growth of something over 2 per cent is less than exciting, but there are several reasons why Allied can expect to do significantly better than this. First, Allied is the strongest of all the brewers in the wine and spirits field where the volume potential remains substantial. Second, the change in beer consumption towards higher margin products like lager suggests that profits can continue to grow faster than volumes. Further, it is widely held that Allied has scope to recover some of the market share it has been losing if it concentrates its efforts on the right branding policy. The regionalization of its management structure is seen as a significant step in the right direction.

In short, Allied is still a long-term growth stock, and the worry is whether a foray into the foods business in the name of diversification might put this potential at risk. In three or four years time Lyons could look like an excellent opportunistic purchase, but there is a big element of gamble, and in view of the existing prospects, it is not hard to see why some shareholders feel it to be an unjustified one.

Business Diary: 1984 and all that

door. You couldn't help like the man. Even when he was frightening you half to death, as he was the most conscious Winston. But when O'Brien knew everything, understood everything, or so Winston in spite of himself soon began to believe. If he says that once more, I'll scream, Winston thought defiantly, as he saw his eyes cleared enough to meet O'Brien's serene, chummy gaze. "Ah... confused, aren't you, Winston?" murmured O'Brien, a riotous of concern in his dreary eyes. It was not a question, Winston felt.

1984
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Public spending trends—too good to be true?

When an OECD study forecasts that public spending will slow down in the next few years critics of the welfare state may ask: "Is this too good to be true?"

Those who deny that the present achievement of the welfare state should be put on a care and maintenance basis will regard this as bad news, if true. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in a new paper, *Public Expenditure Trends*, forecasts that public spending will continue to rise as fast as wages and current money values and rise as a share of the gross domestic product. But the rate of increase could be less than in the past decade of great growth in government spending.

The starting point of the analysis is the substantial growth in public expenditure since the 1960s, whether viewed in absolute terms or as a percentage of what was then a rapidly growing national product. The new report shows that for every 1 per cent increase in the gross domestic product from 1960 to 1976, public expenditure grew on average 1.21 per cent. Moreover from 1972 to 1976 public expenditure increased by 1.28 per cent. Britain ranks in the middle in this 20-nation league table of public spending.

Governments have been able to spend more because revenue from taxes has increased even faster than economic growth. But tax revenue is no longer increasing as fast as government spending. From 1972 to 1976, public spending grew 9.4 per cent faster than total tax revenue.

Another feature of this OECD analysis is the argument that future public spending will slow down because of the past success of health, education and income maintenance programmes. Collectively, these central programmes of welfare spending today are equivalent to 18.8 per cent of gdp, up two fifths from a decade ago.

Slowdown

Welfare spending has gone up 1.42 per cent for every percentage point increase in the national product. Welfare spending in Britain has risen less than in most other countries, but the OECD average. The largest single factor in the growth in welfare spending, accounting for 44 per cent of the increase, has been the expanded coverage of welfare programmes. By contrast, public spending on education, health and other income maintenance grants has been altered to make it easier to draw benefits. The same is true of health services with the payment of sickness benefits to workers in ill health.

The changing demographic composition of the population has accounted for 16 per cent of the increase affecting programmes differently within and between nations. Changes in cost, arising principally from the relative increases in wages paid to teachers and staff in the health service, accounted for another 16 per cent of the increase. Less than one quarter of the increased spending has been devoted to improving individual benefits.

Because the net of the welfare state now reaches widely, OECD economists suggest that there is limited scope to expand it further, and the extra cost will thus be less than in the past. In extreme cases, the use of welfare services might even fall. For example, fewer young people may choose to go to university and the average stay of a patient in a hospital may decline.

Insofar as additional expenditure is deemed desirable on public policy grounds, the OECD report suggests that it might be made more "egalitarian" by being directed selectively at those most in need. This point of view is diametrically opposed to Labour's conventional denunciation of means-tested benefits in Britain, and preference for universal (and possibly) universal benefit provision.

Another technically correct but politically controversial recommendation is that user charges might be increased in order to raise more revenue for government and allocate welfare services better in accordance with demand. Data is produced to show that in both the health services and public transport, users now pay a smaller proportion of the total cost than in 1970 or 1975. Notwithstanding such limits, the OECD forecasts a continued increase in welfare spending up to 1985. On the minimalist assumption of no policy changes, welfare expenditure is reckoned to rise by one-tenth in relative terms, that is, claim an additional 1.8 per cent of the national product. The principal reason for this would be rising costs in education and health services more than offsetting putative savings from changes in the age composition of the population.

If it is assumed that politicians will not leave programmes unattended but rather try to emulate the best practice of other countries, reducing retirement age and increasing school population, then welfare spending would rise by one sixth, claiming an additional 3.4 per cent of the national product by 1985.

Welfare spending accounts for less than half of total public spending. This OECD study finds good reason for the cost of servicing public debt rising significantly in the next few years, and spending on urban infrastructure—that is, transport, roads and urban renewal—rising at a rate more than offsetting any savings from a curbing of housing subsidies.

Moreover, the advantage that governments gained by the recent relative decline in spending on national defence is unlikely to be repeated in the next few years. OECD economists take the view that increased public spending could claim anything from an extra 1 to 6.5 per cent of the national product by 1985, that is, a rise on average of between 4.2 to 4.7 per cent of the gross domestic product. In Britain, the same estimate ranges from 4.5 to 5.1 per cent of the gross domestic product to public spending.

OECD officials consider the prospect of taxpayers resisting the increased tax demands needed to pay for increased public spending. By contrast, with earlier studies of specific welfare programmes, this study is based on more conservative and realistic public assumptions. The study gives statistical evidence showing how increased taxes are counterproductive in the fight against inflation. Because tax increases fall disproportionately upon income taxes, and because marginal tax rates for average workers can now be 40 per cent or higher for each pound, krona or Deutsche mark earned, workers are shifting to non-taxable benefits, such as the OECD notes that in the 1960s, workers could pay higher taxes and still have higher after-tax wages, thanks to the fiscal dividend of economic growth. As the tax bite increased, the unemployed and dependent children were expected to increase. Moreover, the OECD study notes that increasingly the growth of the welfare state results in a "redistribution of income away from wage-earners", that is, to pensioners, the unemployed and dependent children.

The most dubious feature of this OECD report is its economic base. Nearly every calculation relates public spending to gross national product, for the authors are clearly concerned about the relative share of pub-

lic sector claims upon the total national pie. Only a passing mention is given to the assumption that trend growth rates of the 1960s will tend to be maintained. This assumption, however, is false based on the experience of the 1970s to date. In every major Western nation, economic growth has slowed down in the 1970s, and at times, such as 1975, economies have contracted while public spending has continued to grow.

The immediate prospect is bleaker still. In the latest issue of *Economic Outlook* (reported in The Times, July 28) the OECD announced that not only was 1978 growth less than 1977, but that growth in the first half of 1978 would be lower still. The report concluded: "There is probably no royal road back to higher growth."

If Western economies fail to achieve high growth rates for the next few years then the OECD's restrained optimism about a slowdown in public spending will in fact be too good to be true.

A growth rate like the 1970s will push up public spending in absolute terms, in so far as some open-ended programmes, such as unemployment benefits, will automatically increase. Moreover, economists will have good arguments to encourage government to engage in counter-cyclical spending.

Unpopular

Unions will demand that government spend more to subsidize the cost of living. Industrial action, whether in the private or public sector, will also demand that government invest money to produce goods in a less than favourable economic climate.

There are thus reasons to expect that public spending may grow at a faster rate than even the highest of the OECD assumptions. The Paris experts cautiously avoid putting any ceiling on their figures, for there is no ceiling when public spending starts to rise.

Even if government can keep public spending reined in, this will not avoid trouble, if the national economy grows more slowly than before. Should gross domestic product grow at the rate of the past five years, and that at the relatively optimistic rate forecast, then many Western governments, including Britain, will be under pressure to put the brakes on public spending.

But this would be as unpopular as it would be difficult administratively. It would require politicians to challenge established practices for increasing public sector salaries, and... to question whether welfare eligibility and welfare benefits should be frozen or contracted, rather than expanded.

While the OECD forecast is too optimistic to be a basis for prediction, it is just optimistic enough to give hurried politicians a brief respite before they must face a national election.

Richard Rose

Professor Rose is Director of the Centre for the Study of Public Policy at the University of Strathclyde.

Public Expenditure Trends (OECD Studies in Resource Allocation No 5) published by HMSO (£4.40).



An Ambassador car (extreme right) noses its way through a Calcutta street.

India's noisy Ambassador

Bombay

India's privately owned car industry, in crisis ever since the 1973 oil price increases, has reacted warily to last month's threat by Mr George Fernandes, the Industry Minister, to set up a public sector undertaking to introduce badly needed modern technology and step up production.

India after independence set out to establish its own national car industry. Unlike many other developing countries, it severely restricted assistance from the world's established car producing nations. The trouble with this "go-it-alone" policy is that by today's standards Indian motorists have the worst of all worlds.

At one end of the scale they have been saddled with three old-fashioned, high petrol consuming national models while at the other end a few rich Indians manage to purchase themselves, through the star trading corporation's monthly auctions, imported Mercedes, Volvos, and Pintos. These are second hand, but at prices several times higher than abroad.

Last month a Mercedes 280 went to a Bombay dealer for \$80,000 rupees including taxes (more than £38,000). It had been sold to the corporation by a Western diplomat about to leave India—the soundest of foreign cars for India's rich.

After an early technological "push" from Britain and Italy the Indian car manufacturers settled down comfortably to go on turning out what have remained virtually the same models for 15 to 20 years, with an absolute minimum of cosmetic changes outside and almost no research and development.

The consumer jokes about the Ambassador, India's best known car, as the "legion". "What car is it that when you get behind the steering wheel feels like driving a lorry?" is one whose justness I can vouchsafe for. Driving a 1972 model in Delhi, I have just come back from driving modern cars in Europe.

"How's your new Ambassador?" runs another, perhaps more of an exaggeration. "Terrible. Everything makes a noise except the horn." For about 38,250 rupees sales tax included (about £2,500) you can acquire these days what is called a "Mark III Ambassador".

It is a very basic car and you will need to buy lots of what the Indian manufacturers choose to regard as extras, such as floor mats and oil and temperature meters. "If you want a really comfortable Ambassador it will cost you about 30,000

rupees more," a leading Delhi car dealer told me. But most Indians who have traded in their old models complain bitterly of lower standards.

The car industry defends itself, pointing out that about 20,000 rupees of the price represent government taxes on what is officially regarded as a luxury item in a poor country.

Worried by Mr Fernandes's veiled threat of nationalization, the Indian car industry's professional bodies have responded eagerly that they want to discuss with the Government introducing modern technology.

Mr Fernandes last week told Parliament that the manufacturers of the Ambassador had forwarded modernization plans for the car. As if to say, "about time too," the minister stressed that its engine design was 30 years old. The Government would consider the proposals in the light of its new overall motor industry strategy.

The essential problem is that India's outdated car engines consume as much as double the petrol of a modern European or Japanese car. The Ambassador does around 25 miles to the gallon if it is in good order—and Ambassadors rarely are—while the equivalent Toyota does on Indian roads about 36 mpg.

The oil crisis hit the Indian car industry hard. It lost emerging middle class customers and had to cut back production. Nothing to improve the engine has come along. Today the car makers are worried. If they do introduce petrol saving engines will the market hear the increased prices? And would the Government, in any case, allow such increases?

It is for these reasons that some people see the justification for Mr Fernandes's demand for setting a target for Indian car production around 100,000 vehicles a year based on an injection of imported new technology, perhaps publicly financed.

India's car export performance has been woeiful; one company has sold only 88 cars in ten years, going chiefly to the Gulf States.

But unless you are a film star, a big businessman, or a successful politician the best of foreign cars, even second hand, are quite out of reach. You have to go on fuelling petrol with your ancient Ambassador along India's bumpy roads.

It is galling to think, as a gleaming Mercedes of the late seventies goes by, that its petrol consumption is less than your jalopy, first produced in the fifties.

Richard Wigg

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of
CYANAMID INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
3 3/4% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1980

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of September 1, 1965 providing for the above Debentures, \$53,000 aggregate principal amount of said Debentures have been selected by lot for redemption on September 1, 1978, through over-issuance of Sinking Fund, at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof together with accrued interest to said date. The serial numbers of the Debentures selected for redemption are as follows:

332	1258	2779	4264	5140	6464	7284	7598	9684	10764	11444	13144	14444	15974	17074	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
348	1268	2799	4486	5164	6686	7506	7820	9906	10986	11666	13366	14666	16196	17296	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
364	1278	2819	4708	5188	6908	7730	7953	10086	10986	11666	13366	14666	16196	17296	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
380	1288	2839	4930	5212	7130	7953	8176	10186	11086	11766	13466	14766	16296	17396	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
396	1298	2859	5152	5236	7352	8176	8399	10286	11186	11866	13566	14866	16396	17496	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
412	1308	2879	5374	5260	7574	8399	8620	10386	11286	11966	13666	14966	16496	17596	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
428	1318	2899	5596	5284	7796	8620	8843	10486	11386	12066	13766	15066	16596	17696	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
444	1328	2919	5818	5308	8018	8843	9064	10586	11486	12166	13866	15166	16696	17796	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
460	1338	2939	6040	5332	8240	9064	9287	10686	11586	12266	13966	15266	16796	17896	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
476	1348	2959	6262	5356	8462	9287	9509	10786	11686	12366	14066	15366	16896	17996	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
492	1358	2979	6484	5380	8684	9509	9732	10886	11786	12466	14166	15466	16996	18096	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
508	1368	2999	6706	5404	8906	9732	9955	10986	11886	12566	14266	15566	17096	18196	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
524	1378	3019	6928	5428	9128	9955	10177	11086	11986	12666	14366	15666	17196	18296	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
540	1388	3039	7150	5452	9350	10177	10399	11186	12086	12766	14466	15766	17296	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
556	1398	3059	7372	5476	9572	10399	10620	11286	12186	12866	14566	15866	17396	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
572	1408	3079	7594	5500	9794	10620	10843	11386	12286	12966	14666	15966	17496	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
588	1418	3099	7816	5524	10016	10843	11065	11486	12386	13066	14766	16066	17596	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
604	1428	3119	8038	5548	10238	11065	11287	11586	12486	13166	14866	16166	17696	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
620	1438	3139	8260	5572	10460	11287	11509	11686	12586	13266	14966	16266	17796	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
636	1448	3159	8482	5596	10682	11509	11731	11786	12686	13366	15066	16366	17896	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
652	1458	3179	8704	5620	10904	11731	11953	11886	12786	13466	15166	16466	17996	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
668	1468	3199	8926	5644	11126	11953	12175	11986	12886	13566	15266	16566	18096	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
684	1478	3219	9148	5668	11348	12175	12397	12086	12986	13666	15366	16666	18196	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
700	1488	3239	9370	5692	11570	12397	12619	12186	13086	13766	15466	16766	18296	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
716	1498	3259	9592	5716	11792	12619	12841	12286	13186	13866	15566	16866	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
732	1508	3279	9814	5740	12014	12841	13063	12386	13286	13966	15666	16966	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
748	1518	3299	10036	5764	12236	13063	13285	12486	13386	14066	15766	17066	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
764	1528	3319	10258	5788	12458	13285	13507	12586	13486	14166	15866	17166	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
780	1538	3339	10480	5812	12680	13507	13729	12686	13586	14266	15966	17266	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
796	1548	3359	10702	5836	12902	13729	13951	12786	13686	14366	16066	17366	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
812	1558	3379	10924	5860	13124	13951	14173	12886	13786	14466	16166	17466	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
828	1568	3399	11146	5884	13346	14173	14395	12986	13886	14566	16266	17566	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
844	1578	3419	11368	5908	13568	14395	14617	13086	13986	14666	16366	17666	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
860	1588	3439	11590	5932	13790	14617	14839	13186	14086	14766	16466	17766	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
876	1598	3459	11812	5956	14012	14839	15061	13286	14186	14866	16566	17866	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
892	1608	3479	12034	5980	14234	15061	15283	13386	14286	14966	16666	17966	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
908	1618	3499	12256	6004	14456	15283	15505	13486	14386	15066	16766	18066	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
924	1628	3519	12478	6028	14678	15505	15727	13586	14486	15166	16866	18166	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
940	1638	3539	12700	6052	14900	15727	15949	13686	14586	15266	16966	18266	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
956	1648	3559	12922	6076	15122	15949	16171	13786	14686	15366	17066	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
972	1658	3579	13144	6100	15344	16171	16393	13886	14786	15466	17166	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
988	1668	3599	13366	6124	15566	16393	16615	13986	14886	15566	17266	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1004	1678	3619	13588	6148	15788	16615	16837	14086	14986	15666	17366	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1020	1688	3639	13810	6172	16010	16837	17059	14186	15086	15766	17466	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1036	1698	3659	14032	6196	16232	17059	17281	14286	15186	15866	17566	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1052	1708	3679	14254	6220	16454	17281	17503	14386	15286	15966	17666	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1068	1718	3699	14476	6244	16676	17503	17725	14486	15386	16066	17766	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1084	1728	3719	14698	6268	16898	17725	17947	14586	15486	16166	17866	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1100	1738	3739	14920	6292	17120	17947	18169	14686	15586	16266	17966	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1116	1748	3759	15142	6316	17342	18169	18391	14786	15686	16366	18066	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1132	1758	3779	15364	6340	17564	18391	18613	14886	15786	16466	18166	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1148	1768	3799	15586	6364	17786	18613	18835	14986	15886	16566	18266	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1164	1778	3819	15808	6388	18008	18835	19057	15086	15986	16666	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1180	1788	3839	16030	6412	18230	19057	19279	15186	16086	16766	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1196	1798	3859	16252	6436	18452	19279	19501	15286	16186	16866	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1212	1808	3879	16474	6460	18674	19501	19723	15386	16286	16966	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1228	1818	3899	16696	6484	18896	19723	19945	15486	16386	17066	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1244	1828	3919	16918	6508	19118	19945	20167	15586	16486	17166	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1260	1838	3939	17140	6532	19340	20167	20389	15686	16586	17266	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1276	1848	3959	17362	6556	19562	20389	20611	15786	16686	17366	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1292	1858	3979	17584	6580	19784	20611	20833	15886	16786	17466	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1308	1868	3999	17806	6604	20006	20833	21055	15986	16886	17566	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343	18343
1324	1878	4019	18028	6628	20228	21055	21277	16086	169										

FINANCIAL NEWS

Reed Int's £39m sale of
with African interest

International has another step on the road with the successful sale of its negotiations in Rand for the sale of 33 per cent stake in Reed. Barlow is paying £4.30 a share for a total price of £39m. Reed is to receive £15m in cash to reduce its net liabilities by £24m.

It will also receive the interim dividend of 1.4p per share declared in July. The group's debt exercise suffered a setback when talks with an offshoot of Union Carbide were terminated.

Mr. J. A. Howard, the chairman and managing director, is waiving his rights to the proposed final dividend.



Mr Alex Jarratt, chairman of Reed International.

cost of servicing the related borrowings.

Following the sale, Reed continues to hold investments in South Africa, in particular Stanger Pulp and Paper Mill, though profits of Reedpak, in December 1977, and extended by a further 10 per cent in December, 1977.

Commercial
Union
Insurance Company Limited

Board announces estimated and unaudited profits for the 6 months to 30th June 1978 of £40.2m (1977 £25.8m) after tax for taxation.

	6 months to 30th June 1978	6 months to 30th June 1977	Year 1977
	£m	£m	£m
UM INCOME	615.2	612.6	1,072.5
Investment income	71.4	63.7	127.7
Other income	7.3	6.2	14.2
Operating result (below)	(4.3)	(19.9)	(20.9)
Interest	(10.2)	(11.8)	(21.2)
BEFORE TAX	64.2	38.2	99.8
Income tax and minorities	(24.0)	(12.4)	(32.2)
ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	40.2	25.8	67.6
NETS PER SHARE	9.79p	7.72p	19.40p
HOLDERS' FUNDS	£611m	£481m	£584m
WRITING RESULT	£m	£m	£m
United Kingdom	6	(1.7)	(1.7)
Other States	(3)	(7.8)	3.3
Other	(1.1)	5	1
Land	(6.0)	(6.9)	(15.6)
Under	2.2	(4.9)	(7.4)
	(4.3)	(19.9)	(20.9)

The results for the 6 months to 30th June 1977 have been restated to reflect changes during the latter part of 1977, in the Company's accounting policy for deferred taxation.

The results of the Company's overseas operations have, as usual, been converted at rates of exchange prevailing at the close of the periods reported above.

Mid-wide premium income in sterling terms, after allowing for changes in rates of exchange, shows a growth of 4%.

Investing results generally have benefited by a net of £4.1m (1977 £1.9m) from the adverse weather in due to heavy weather losses during the first 6 months, particularly in the United Kingdom, United States and India.

The United Kingdom there has been a return to underwrite with improved experience in most classes of business.

The United States underwriting experience generally has been profitable, but the first 6 months' results on the statutory basis have been adversely affected by unusually heavy losses arising from the severe winter and subsequent hail storms. These losses, experienced by the whole year, have particularly affected the motor and property classes. The statutory operating ratio for the first 6 months of 1978 is 100.3% (1977 104.3%) and the deterioration from the 1977 ratio of 99.0% is largely accounted for by the increase in losses.

Underwriting results in Australia have deteriorated further due to severe competition and adverse weather conditions. Canada continued to make a modest profit under the limitations of the Anti-Inflation Board and there has been a small business in Quebec where motor third party bodily injury has been nationalised.

The Netherlands the underwriting loss shows some improvement as rate increases approved for 1978 begin to have effect, particularly on the motor account.

The fine and aviation business continues to suffer intense competition in the London market, but the 1976 underwriting year, closed at the end of 1978, is expected to produce a profit.

A 12% increase in investment income reflects the growth in available funds for investment, including those arising from underwriting results, and the higher interest rates in force during the 2nd Quarter. After allowing for changes in exchange, the acquisition of Estates House Investment Limited and the proceeds of the Rights Issue in 1977, the 1978 increase in investment income was 10%.

The Directors have decided to increase the interim dividend to 3p (2.56p) per share which, with the tax credit of 1.410p (1.27p) per share available to certain shareholders, totals 4.273p (3.83p) per share, an increase of 10%. The dividend will be paid by November next to ordinary shareholders on the register of members on 19th October and will cost £11.8m (£9.0m).

Following the retroactive reduction in the rate of Advance Action Tax, the Directors have also decided to pay an interim dividend in respect of 1977 to restore the 1977 final dividend, with tax credit, to that assumed at the time of action. This will be .077p per share which, with the tax of .038p per share, will amount to .115p per share. The £0.3m and payment will be made with the interim dividend shareholders on the register at 19th October.

The total payment to shareholders on the register at 19th October, accordingly, 2.940p per share which, with the tax of 1.448p per share, amounts to 4.388p per share at a total of £12.1m.

New life assurance business (world-wide) was as follows:

	6 months to 30th June 1978	6 months to 30th June 1977	Year 1977
	£m	£m	£m
Life assured	1,064.1	916.7	1,609.7
and annuity premiums	26.5	25.7	63.8
total	1,090.6	942.4	1,673.5

Insure with
Commercial Union
Assurance

Howard
Shuttering
lower but
scrip made

By Bryan Appleyard
Howard Shuttering (Holdings), the building trade suppliers, suffered a 26 per cent fall in profits in the year to April 30.

On turnover up by 10 per cent from £3.1m to £3.4m, profits fell from £443,000 to £326,000. The net charge fell from £235,000 to £147,000, leaving earnings per share down from 7.2p to 6.3p.

With the interim figures in January Howard said that the fall in new building contracts mentioned last year had continued into the current year.

The final dividend is 1.4p gross, making a total of 2.58p for the year, against 2.3p last time. Mr J. A. Howard, the chairman and managing director, is waiving his rights to the proposed final dividend.

The board is also proposing a scrip issue of three new shares for every four held.

The shares were unchanged at 28p yesterday, where they yield 9.2 per cent and sell at 4.4 times earnings.

PROPERTY PARTNERSHIPS
Treasury has agreed to board's intention to declare a total dividend of about 3.73p gross for the year to March 31, 1979.

Helical Bar
takeover
talks
continue

Although it has not named the company which made an approach in April, the board of Helical Bar is taking action which could either force up the bid price, or help to fight it off altogether.

Mr J. D. Spooner, the chairman of Helical Bar, the steel reinforcement and stock holding group says that the initial approach sought to obtain the backing of his board, and that of Abingworth, which has a 20 per cent stake, for an offer of 33p a share, as a pre-condition of any offer being made to shareholders.

News of a bid approach saw the shares jump 7p to exactly 33p, but since April they have risen to their present level of 38p—where the group is capitalised at £913,000. The board's view was that a 33p offer was too wide a discount against the group's underlying asset value.

Helical Bar decided to have a revaluation of the leasehold premises in Sutton-in-Ashfield. This showed a value of £350,000, increasing the net asset value a share by 9.5p at April 29 to about 55p a share.

Discussions are still continuing with the potential bidder on a sale of certain assets.

Hambros chief on shipping loans

Hambros Bank managed to coast through a perfunctory annual general meeting without any embarrassing questions about its shipping loans. Chairman, Mr Jocelyn Hambros, did, however, emphasise that the provisions made on its shipping portfolio "are not unright write-offs in the sense that the debt is not written off of the books, as was the case in 1976 when we agreed to write-off £4.32m after-tax". Mr Hambros said he hoped for an early conclusion to the talks with the Norwegian Guarantee Institute and, in the meantime, expressed confidence in the rest of the group's banking operations.

C. H. Industrials' first-half forecast

C.H. Industrials, the foam, paint and soft trim manufacturers, expect first-half results for 1978-79 to be below, or similar to, those earned in the first six months of last year, the chairman, Mr Tim Hearley, forecasts in the annual accounts.

The reason for this, he reports, is that "the split of profits between the group's operating divisions may well be different during the current year". Pre-tax profits were £908,000 before exceptional and non-recurring costs of £109,000 for the year to March 31, 1978, which was well over the rights issue estimate.

Bourne & H

Shares of Bourne & Hollingsworth went up 2p to 209p after a statement on the current bid talks. Last month the Oxford Street department store group said that it was in talks with various parties about a possible takeover.

Business appointments
Top changes
at two
ICI divisions

Mr Brian Appleton, a deputy chairman of ICI's agricultural division, and Mr T. Jenkins, personnel and Wilton site coordination director of the petrochemicals division, have been made deputy chairmen of the petrochemicals division. Mr G. O. Morgan becomes a deputy chairman of the agricultural division.

Mr Bruce Patterson is now financial director of Tricentral Oil Corporation.

Mr Ian Irwin has been made a non-executive director of Scotcross. Mr John Chene has retired from the board. The H. Samuel Group has been reorganised by the formation of a new subsidiary, H. Samuel Jewellers, which will manage the buying, manufacturing and retailing activities of H. Samuel. The directors of H. Samuel Jewellers are: Mr R. Collingwood (chairman and managing director), Mr S. R. Geotill, Mr G. C. Leeson, Mr J. C. Smith, Mr J. A. Wood, Mr N. R. Collingwood and Mr H. A. Edwards.

Mr Ramon Mortimer has been made managing director of the iron foundry division of S. Russell & Sons.

Mr C. S. Stewart has become assistant managing director of Hogg Robinson (Benefit Consultants). Mr R. M. Westwood has been made a director.

Mr N. Berry becomes managing director of Futura Footwear Group.

R J Reynolds' offer for Del Monte

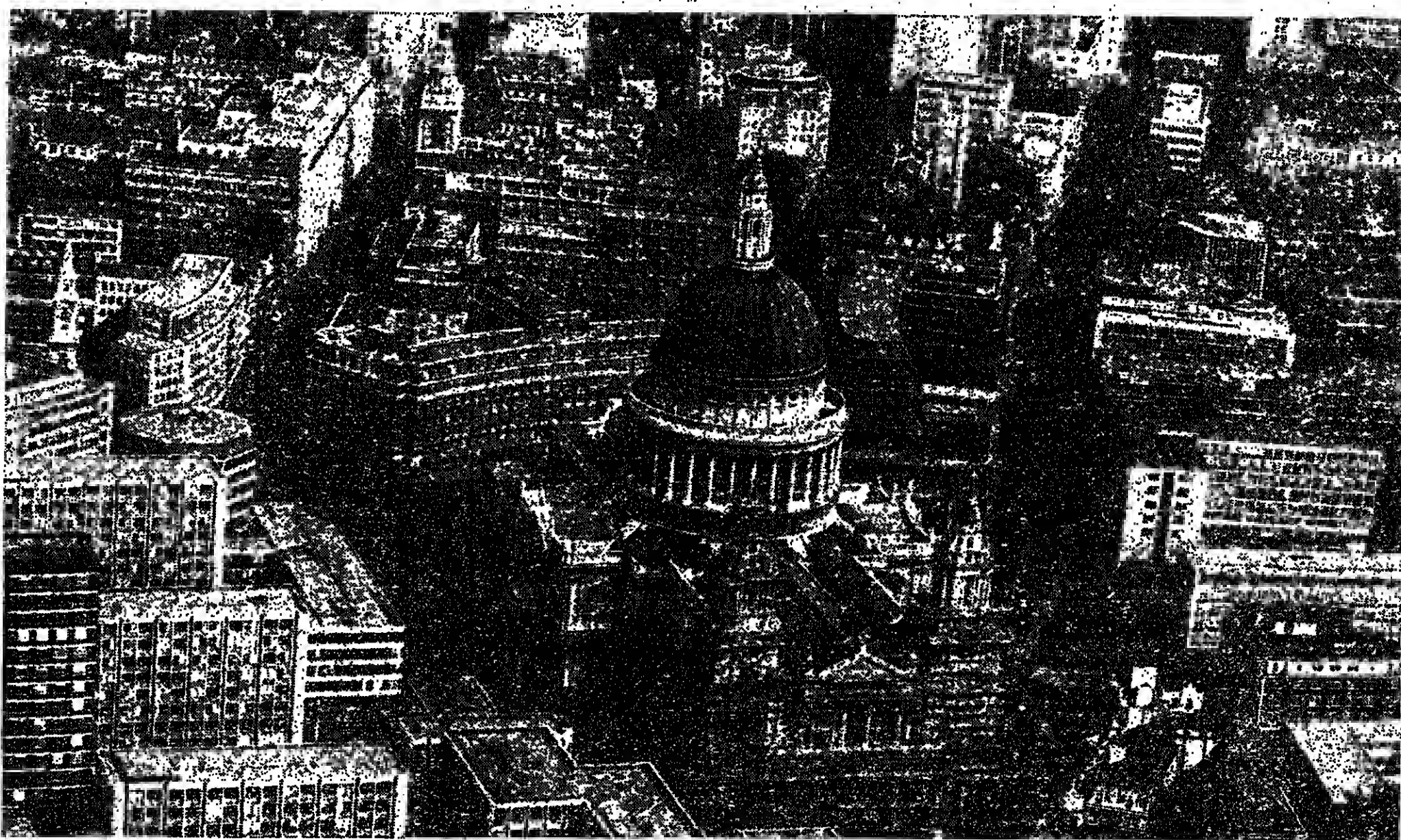
San Francisco.—The Del Monte Corp has received an offer from R. J. Reynolds Industries to merge with Reynolds. Del Monte said the offer provides that up to 45 per cent of Del Monte's 12 million outstanding shares would be acquired for \$38 a share cash, prior to the proposed merger. The remaining Del Monte shares would be exchanged for an equity security of Reynolds intended to have about the same value per share of Del Monte stock. Del Monte is reviewing the offer.—Reuters.

Wang Laboratories

Wang Laboratories, the American computer and business machines manufacturer, raised net earnings in the year to the end of June by 71 per cent to \$19.6m. Total revenues were up 47 per cent at \$198.1m, and earnings per share rose from 88 cents to \$1.38. The order position was also strong, with new orders worth \$232m received during the year, an increase of 53 per cent. Wang is an aggressive company in the small computer field, and last year introduced a new low-cost word processing system. The rapid growth of recent years could be repeated in the current year, as first-quarter net earnings showed a 61 per cent rise to \$5.83m.

Berliet-Saviem

Paris.—The planned merger between the two heavy vehicle subsidiaries of the Regie Nationale des Usines Renault-Berliet and Saviem, will involve a rise in Berliet's capital to 455.6m francs from 140.6m and an exchange of Berliet shares for Saviem's, the companies announced. The deal still has to be approved by shareholders.—Reuters.

Business opportunities
in Brazil start here.

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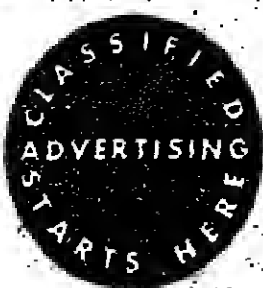
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